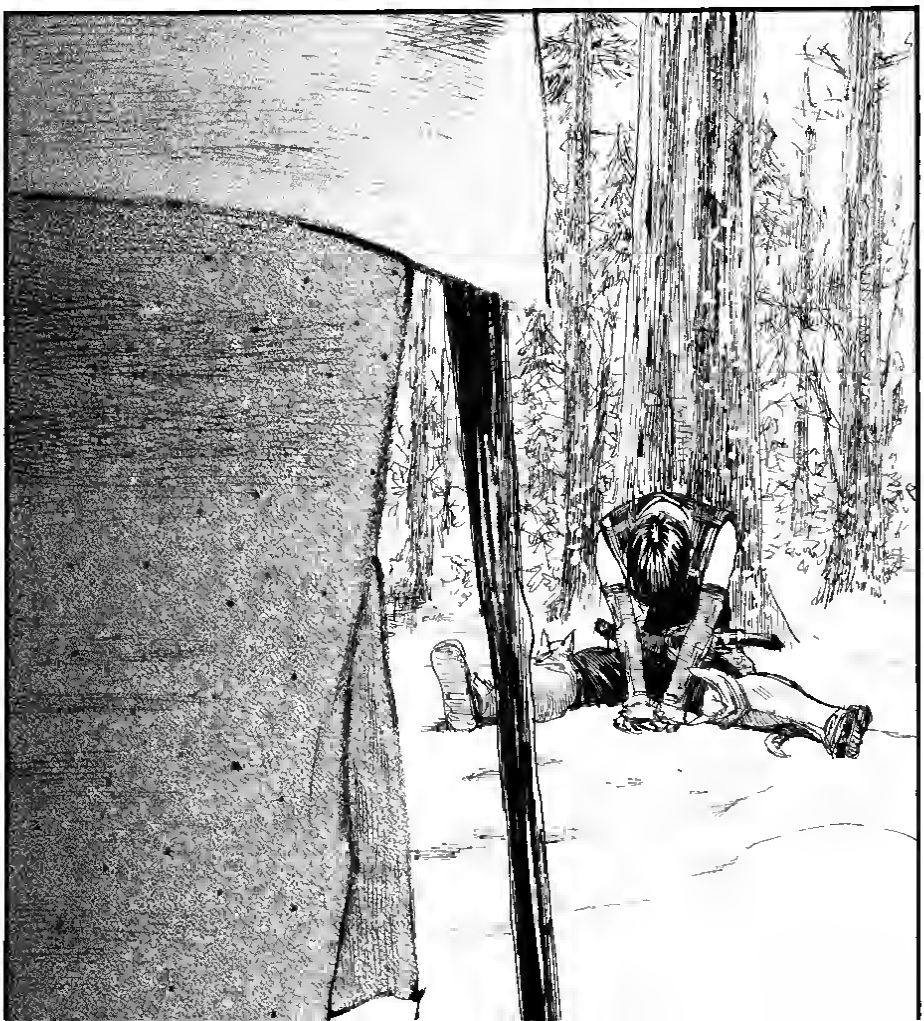
❖Chapter 174:❖
Pots
-Part 4-

YOU WILL SUFFER A CRUEL DEATH FOR THIS!
HEY, WILD ONE!



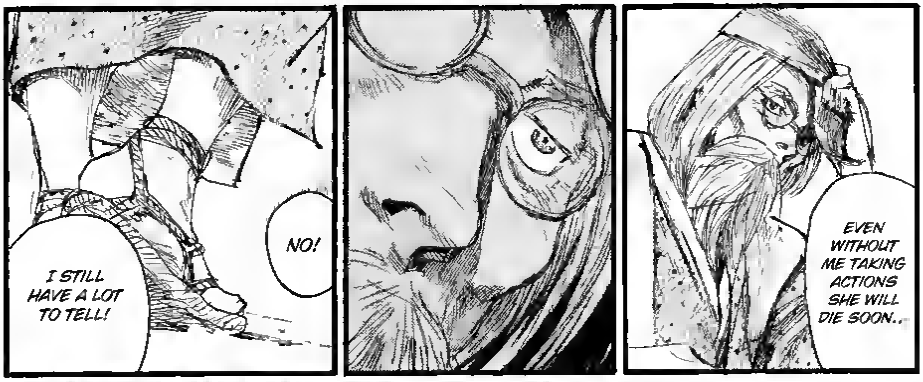
YOU KILLED THREE OF MY PEOPLE!
IT WAS MY MISTAKE ALONE
NO...
I WILL MAKE YOU...
...AGAINST SWORD-FIGHTERS WHO CAN CHOOSE ANY KIND OF MELEE WEAPON
WE ONLY HAVE OUR BODIES AND MINDS TO USE...
THESE ARE THE WEAPONS OF THE POOR WHO HAVE NO OTHER METHODS...

NO...
WE MADE THE MISTAKES
A SWORD-FIGHTER OF YOUR GRADE WOULD HAVE BEEN EASILY DEFEATED BY US...
AAH, IT MAKES ME ANGRY!
SOMEONE LIKE YOU...
WHO WOULD EXPECT A WILD BITCH THAT IS BLINDLY STORMING INTO TRAPS...
...AND A PISTOL SNIPER WITH FANTASTIC ABILITIES SUPPORTING SUCH A CRAZY ONE .?
...TO SEND KAGIMURA HABAKI A MESSAGE
THEN YOU WILL SERVE US...

IT DEPENDS ON GIVING HIM DOUBTS, HE SHOULD THINK THAT YOU'RE STILL ALIVE...
PEEL OFF THE SKIN FROM YOUR FACE?
SHOULD I CUT OFF YOUR HANDS? OR YOUR ARM?
I WILL PUT THIS MESSAGE ON HIS PATH.
OF COURSE THOSE ARE NOT REALLY ITTO-RYU METHODS...
EVEN IF HE STARTS HUNTING ME THEN. THE WARNING SHOULD BE A SHOCK FOR HIM.
THERE'S NO REACTION..?
IN SUCH AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, AND IN THE ABSENCE OF OUR LEADER, I HAVE NO CHOICE ..

...SHE'S SITTING AT A SPOT WHERE THE GAS IS CONCENTRATING.
FURTHERMORE...
SHE DID RUN MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE
NO WONDER...
SO UNCONSCIOUSNESS SHOULD BE NORMAL AND HER BREATHING AGGRIEVED.
BUT THERE ARE LOTS OF TOPPLED TREES, ROOTS AND ROCKS THAT FORM DIPS.
...EVENLY SLOPED...
THE FOREST SEEMS...
...AND ACCUMULATE IN DELLS.
...IT'LL SINK DOWN THE MOUNTAIN...
CARBON DIOXIDE IS HEAVIER THAN AIR. IF IT'S RELEASED ON A MOUNTAIN...

IF YOU KNOW WHERE THE CARBON DIOXIDE IS CONCENTRATING...
...IT WILL MAKE A LARGE DIFFERENCE...
...HOW MUCH YOU BREATH IN WHILE RUNNING THROUGH THE WOODS.


NO!
I STILL HAVE A LOT TO TELL!
EVEN WITHOUT ME TAKING ACTIONS SHE WILL DIE SOON..

...THE WIND WILL REFRESH THE AIR.
ONCE THE SEASHELLS IN THE POTS ARE GONE...
..THE CARBON DIOXIDE ISN'T PRODUCED NATURALLY.
FURTHER-MORE...

WHO KNOWS IF SHE WILL WAKE UP AGAIN?
I HAVE TO GIVE HER THE FINAL CUT...

SHOULD I LEAVE IT WITH A SINGLE NEEDLE?
IT'S NOT CERTAIN IF SHE WILL START MOVING AGAIN...
SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO FEEL PAIN ANYMORE...

...IS TOO FAR AWAY TO PICK UP THE SWORD.
THE RIGHT HAND...
THE SWORD ON HER WAIST...
...HER LEFT ARM CAN'T MOVE ANYMORE.
AT LEAST...
...CAN'T BE PULLED BY HER RIGHT HAND.
...BEFORE SHE CAN DEAL WITH AN ENEMY IN FRONT OF HER.
SHE HAS TO CHANGE THE GRIP...
...TO WIELD A SWORD SINGLE HANDED.
SHE DOESN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH ANYMORE...
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DODGE SUCH A MOVEMENT WITHOUT ANY EFFORTS.

BUT TO BE SURE... YOU NEVER KNOW...
.....!

OH MY!
SUCH A YOUNG ONE..!
THERE'S STILL THE LIGHT OF LIFE IN HER EYES...
THESE HANDS
SHE'S NOT THE DAUGHTER OF A SAMURAI
HER LIFE MUST HAVE BEEN CONSTANT HARD WORK.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO.
BUT WHY ARE GIRLS LIKE THIS CHARGING INTO BATTLE TODAY?
ALTHOUGH...
...IT'S THE SAME WITH THE PEOPLE OF MY VILLAGE.

POOR FOOLS...
FIENDS..!
...THAT ARE DRAWN INTO THE BATTLES BETWEEN SAMURAIS
WHAT KIND OF BATTLES ARE THESE ANYMORE..?
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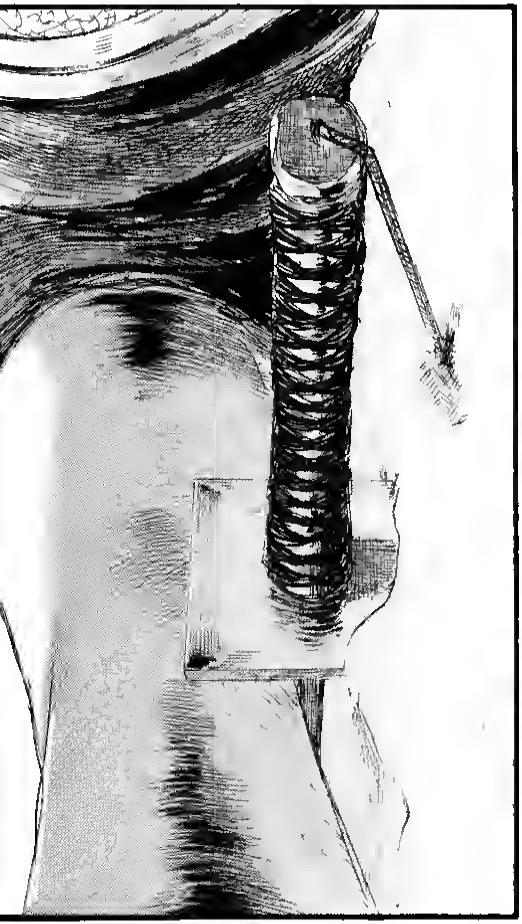
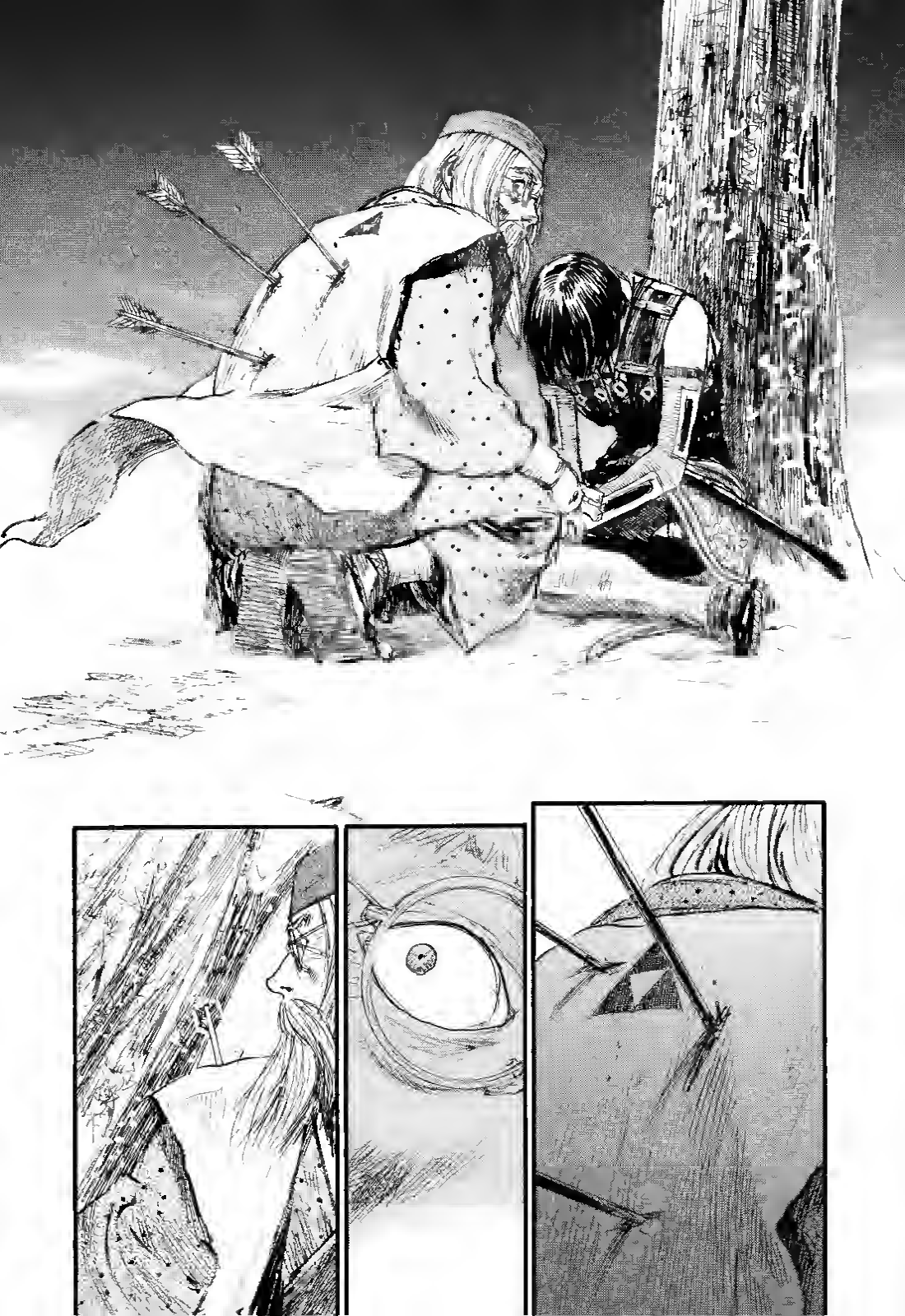
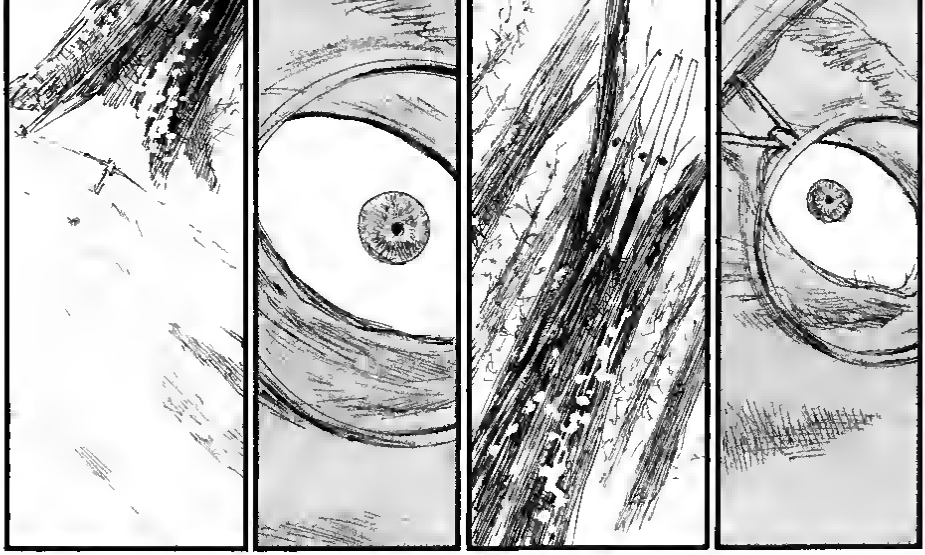
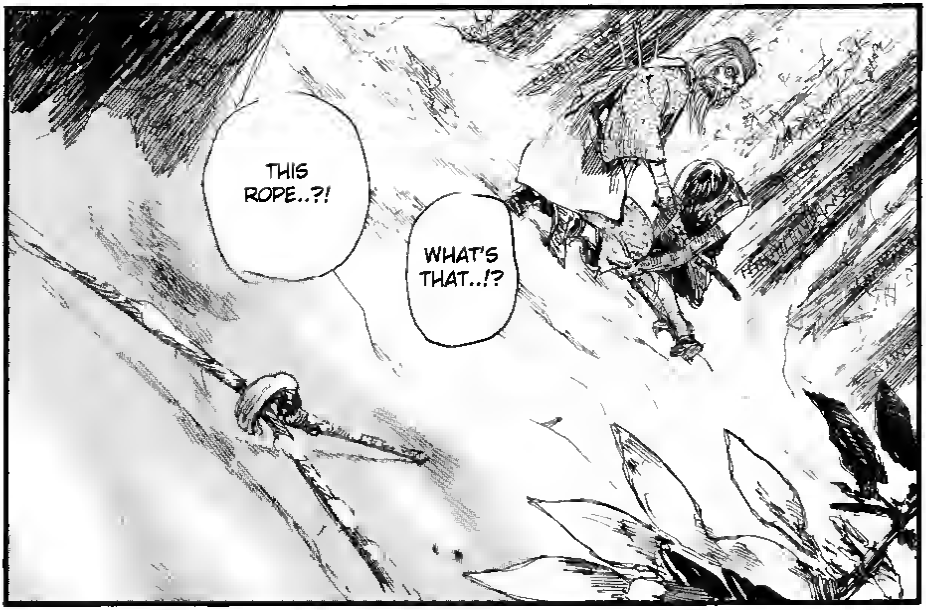
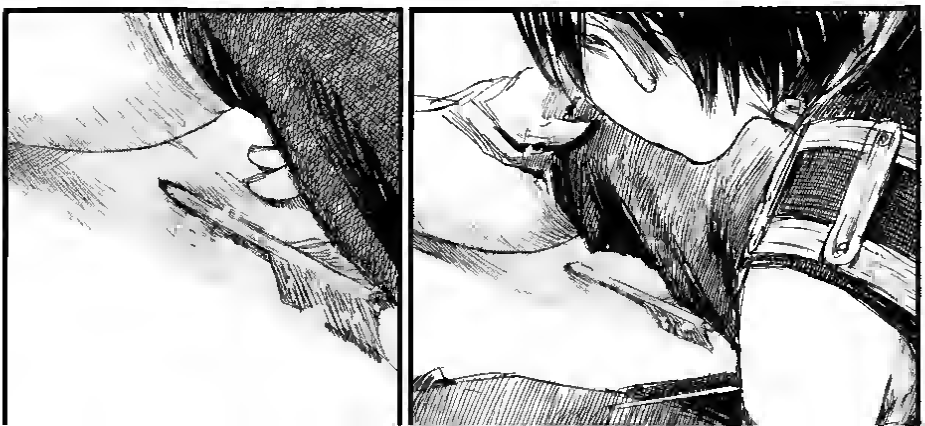
ズズズ"...
KILLER AND THE KILLED...
ALL OF THEM ARE JUST POOR DEVILS.





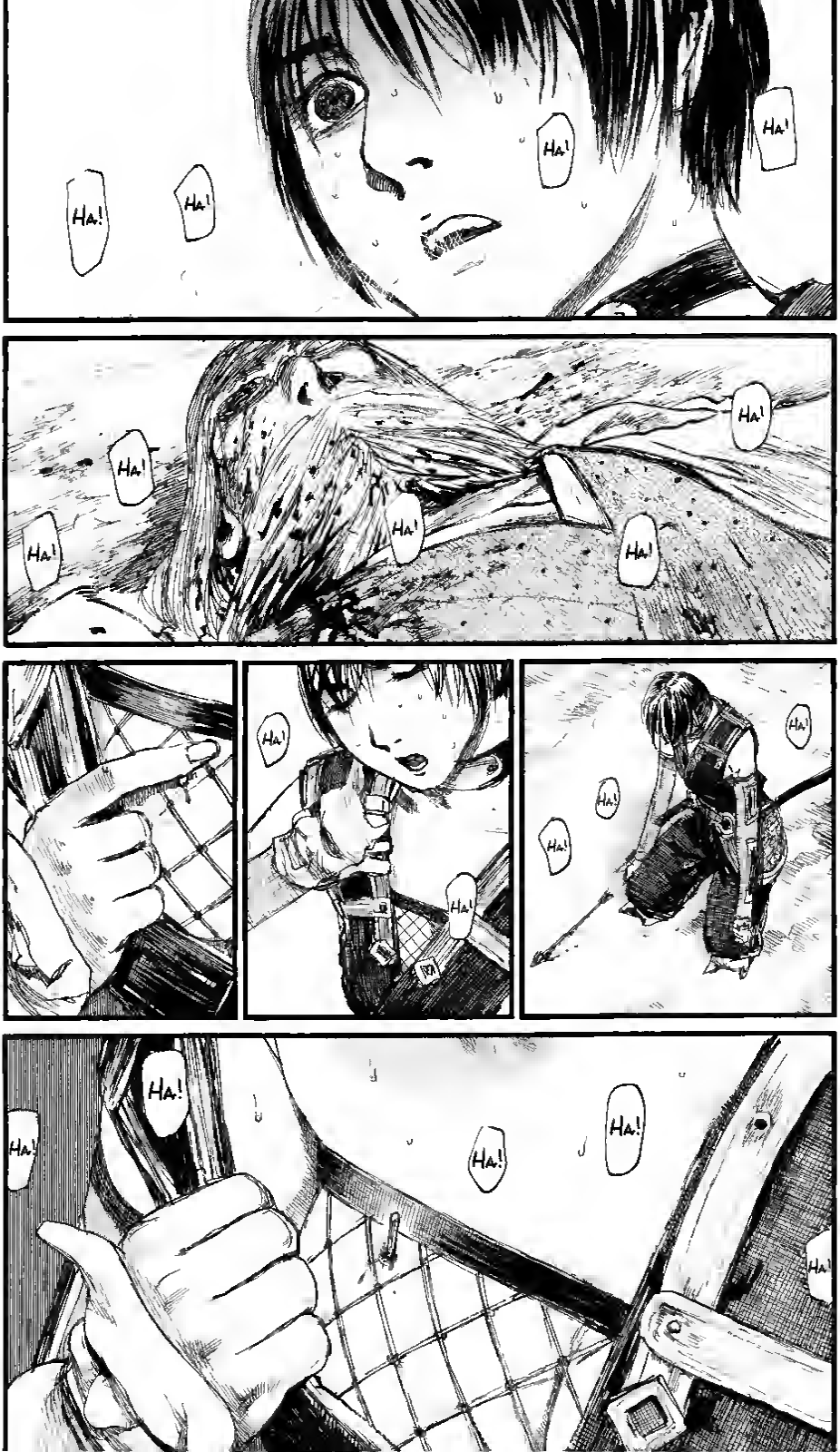



THIS ROPE..?!
WHAT'S THAT..!?



MAYBE YOU KNOW...
...I DON'T HAVE...
...THE POWER TO WIELD A SWORD ANYMORE.
BUT...
.. YOUR COMRADES HAVE LEFT ME ..
...AN EASIER WEAPON TO ATTACK WITH...

T-THAT YOU...
...CON-SCIOUS..!
STILL...
WERE...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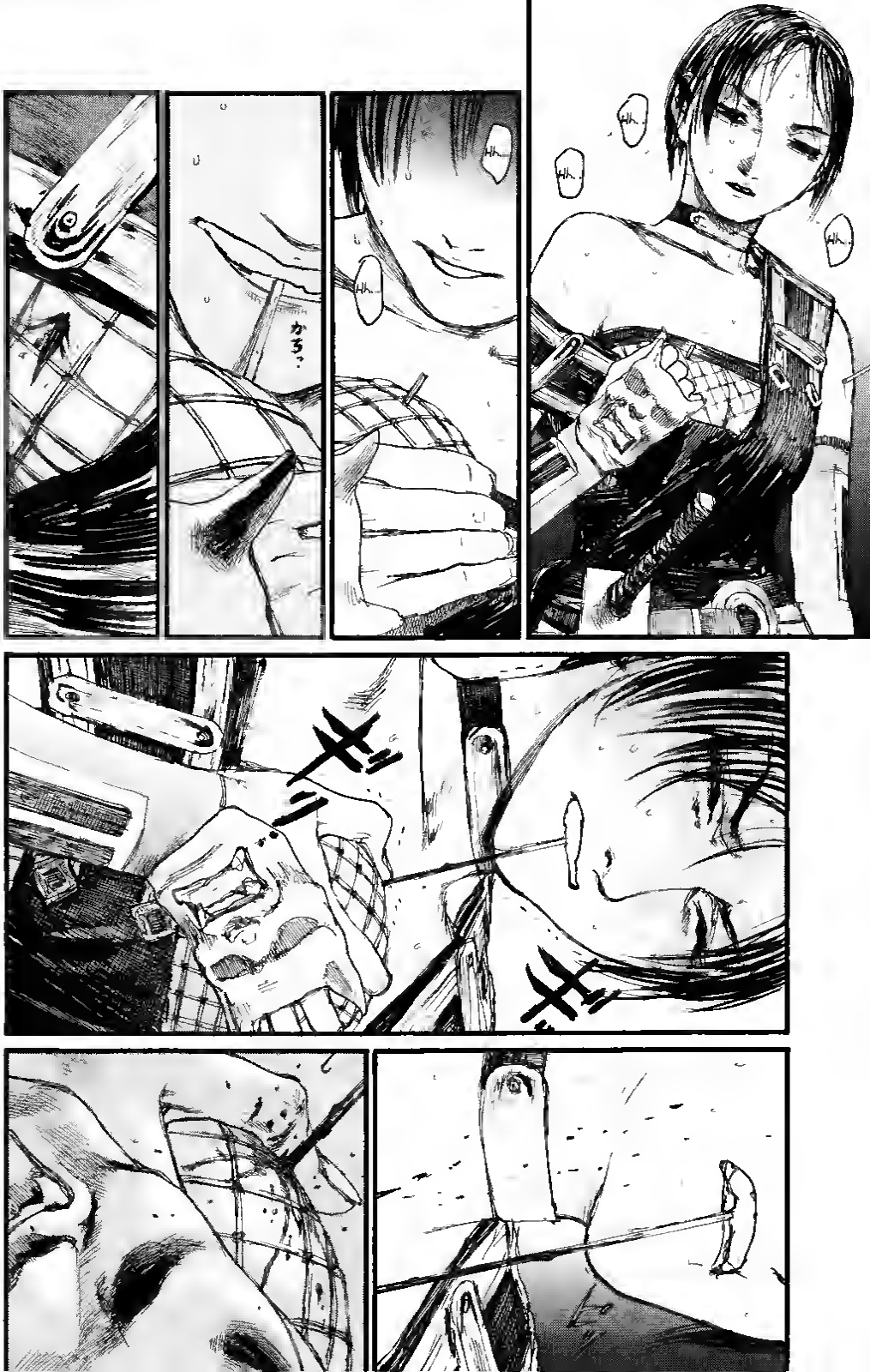
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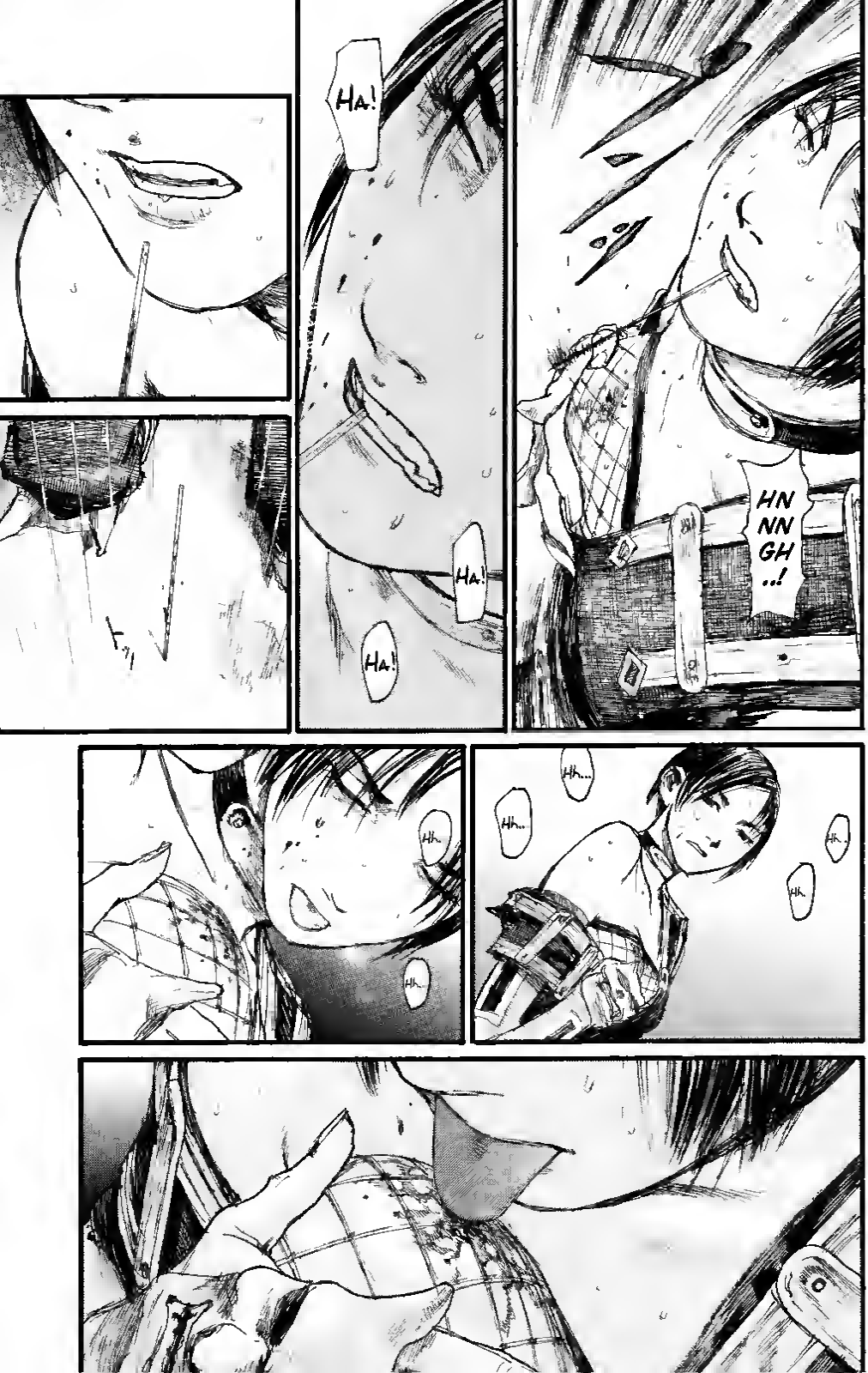
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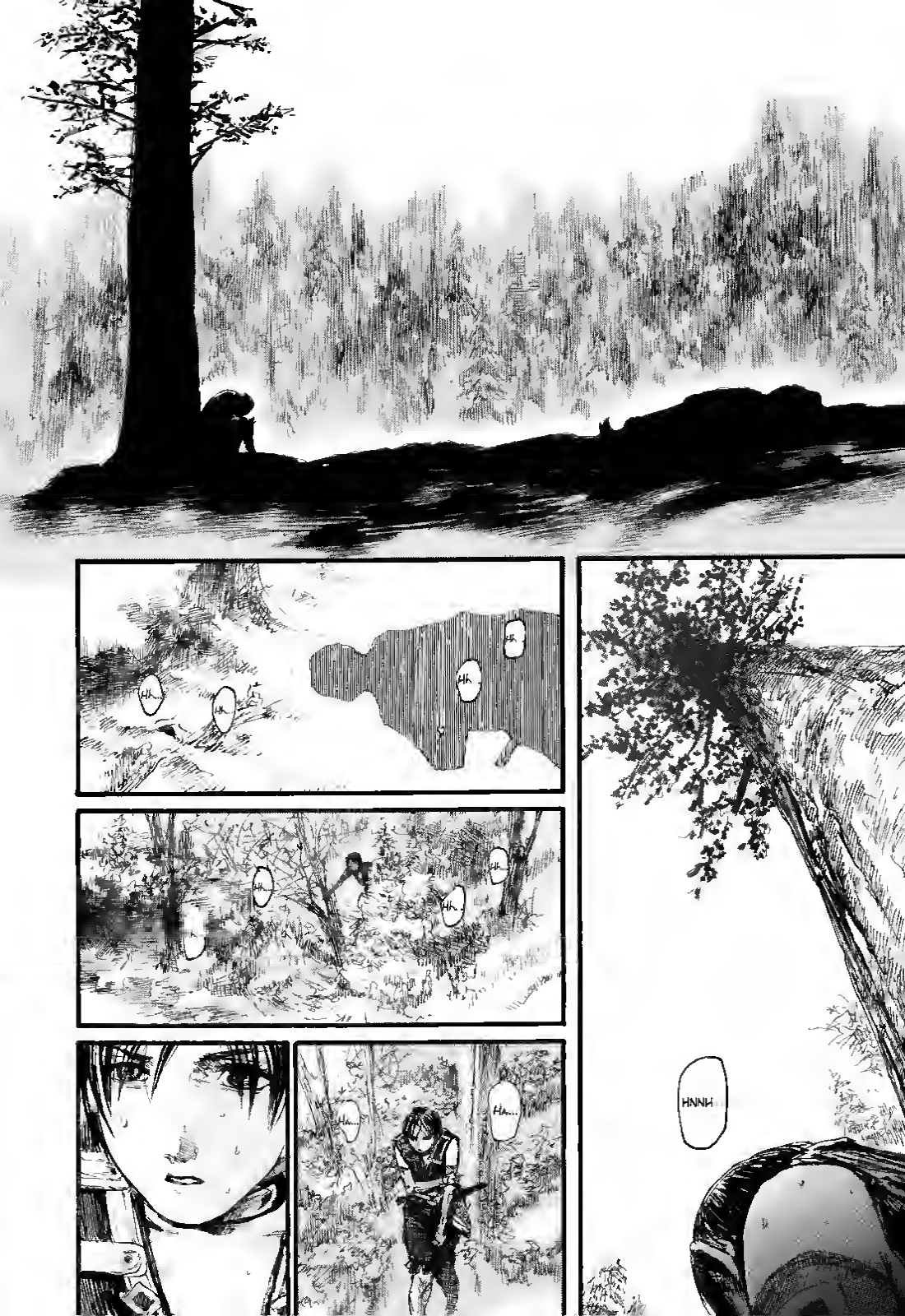
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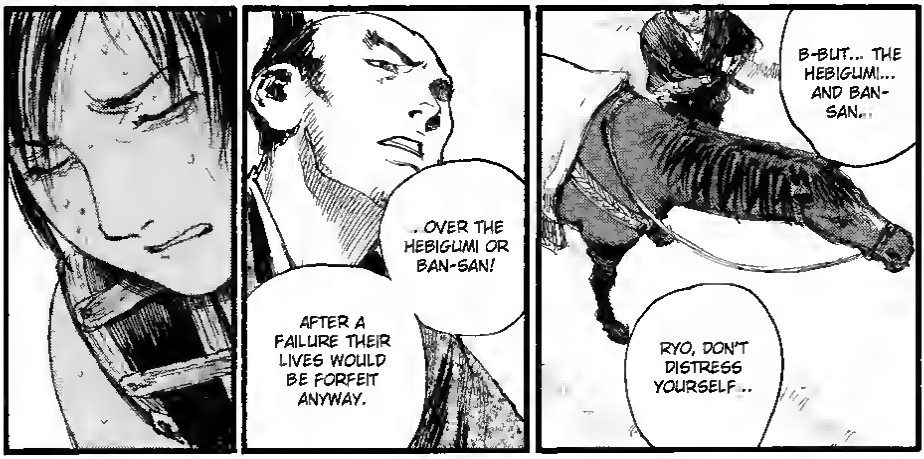
RYO!

EH, YOU KNOW...
BAN SAID, I SHOULD STAY HERE AND BRING HELP IF YOU DIDN'T COME BACK WITHIN AN HOUR.
!!
I DID THAT..
MITAKE-SAN..?!
BRACE YOURSELF! DID YOU LOSE A LOT OF BLOOD?
Tuu!!
Hey, the horse!
M... MITAKE-SAN.!
EXCUSE ME..! I'M SORRY..!
WHAT'S ABOUT THE ITTO-RYU?
I'M THE ONLY ONE... THE ONLY ONE LEFT..
EXCEPT MYSELF— ALL OF THEM ARE DEAD..!

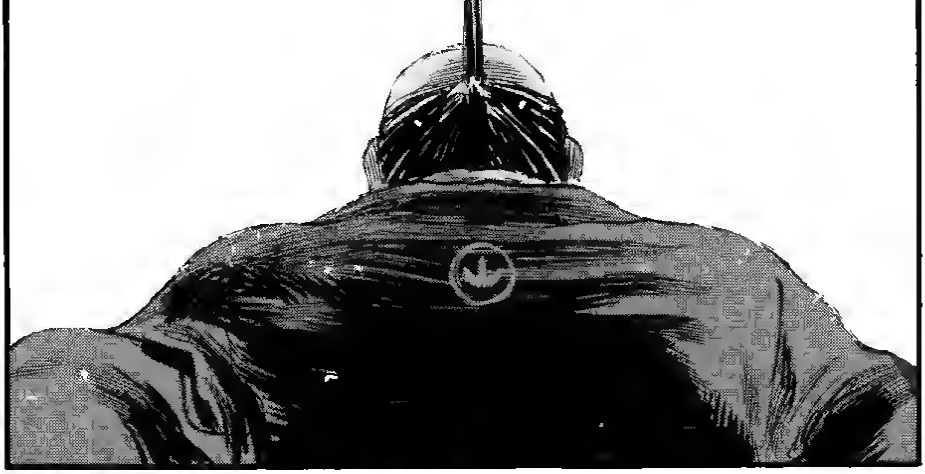
IF ITTO-RYU HAS LOST A FEW PEOPLE AND NOTHING HAPPENED TO YOU THEN IT'S ALRIGHT FOR NOW
I THINK.. WE HAVE KILLED THEM ALL.
HM, UNDER-STOOD..


. OVER THE HEBIGUMI OR BAN-SAN!
AFTER A FAILURE THEIR LIVES WOULD BE FORFEIT ANYWAY.
B-BUT... THE HEBIGUMI... AND BAN-SAN..
RYO, DON'T DISTRESS YOURSELF..

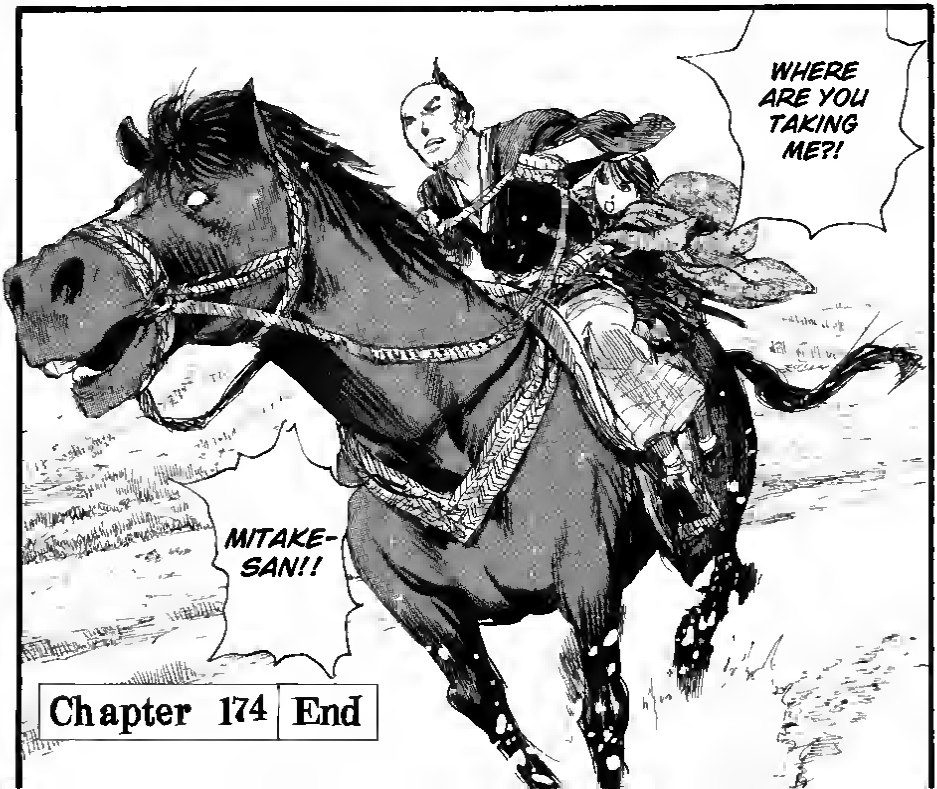
YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED. I'LL BRING YOU TO MASTER HABAKI ON THIS HORSE.
COME..!

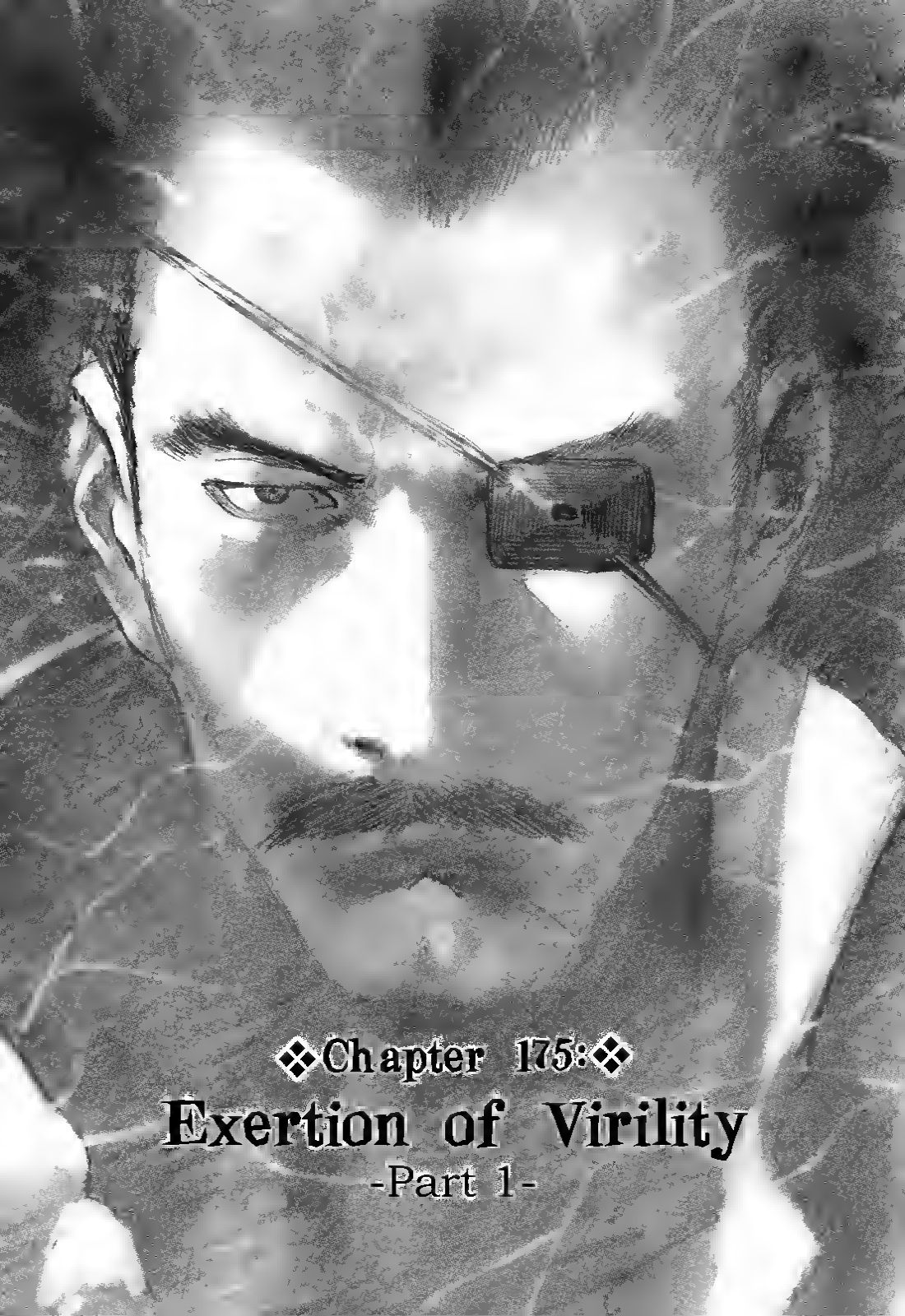
HEEYAA!!

WE ALREADY PASSED BY THIS HOVEL...
MITAKE-SAN.
THIS IS NOT THE WAY TO HABAKI-SAMA.



I DON'T WANT TO..!
STOP .!


WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?!
MITAKE-SAN!!
Chapter 174 End



❖Chapter 175:❖
Exertion of Virility
-Part 1-

MITAKE-SAN!
I DON'T WANNA...
...GO THERE!
PLEASE BRING ME BACK TO HABAKI-SAN!!

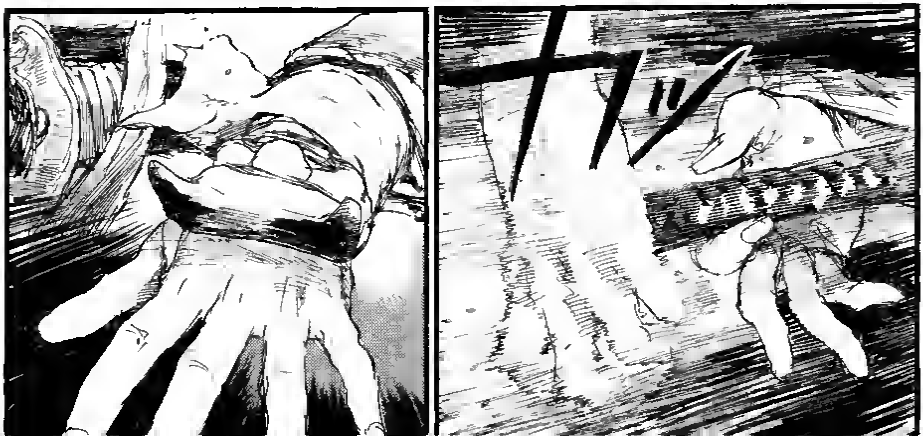
BEFORE WE LEFT EDO...
...HABAKI-SAN SAID TO ME...
...NEITHER YOU NOR ME HAVE TO DIE ON THIS JOURNEY.
IF I HAD THE IMPRESSION...
...THAT YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO CONTINUE FIGHTING...
...I WAS INSTRUCTED TO BRING YOU BACK TO EDO...
...AND PUT YOU UNDER HOUSE ARREST UNTIL THE BATTLE IS OVER.
WHA..?
NO!
MY FATHER WOULD NEVER SAY THAT..
HE'S A RIGOROUS SAMURAI!
HE WOULD NEVER SAY SOMETHING FATUOUS LIKE THAT OUT OF PARENTAL LOVE!!
PLEASE DON'T FOOL ME, MITAKE-SAN!

WHO GAVE YOU THE RIGHT?!
"FATUOUS", YOU SAY?!
WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?!
STOP ACTING LIKE A SPOILED BRAT!!
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND HIS FEELINGS AT ALL!
YOU ADORE HABAKI WITH A KIND OF LOVE THAT GOES BEYOND WHAT SHOULD BE NATURAL BETWEEN A PARENT AND A CHILD!
HIS NAME AND FOR-TUNE...
HABAKI HAS LOST EVERY-THING!
...WIFE AND CHILD..!

HIS LIFE IS FORFEIT, IT DOESN'T MATTER IF HE KILLS ANOTSU OR NOT!
ONLY PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH BY THE SHOGUN GOVERNMENT...
...ARE ALLOWED TO CONNECT THEIR FATE TO HIS!
THAT'S THE WAY OF THE CONDEMNED TO DEATH!
BUT THIS...
...IS NOT YOUR WAY!!
THOSE WHO DIE, AND THOSE WHO LIVE...
WOMEN AND MEN... ALL HAVE A DUTY.
YOU HAVE TO UNDER-STAND THAT!
THE ONLY WOMAN WHO WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE HABAKI'S BLOODLINE HAS TO SURVIVE!
BLOOD..
WOMAN

PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND.!
WHAT SENSE IS THE EXISTENCE OF THE HABAKI FAMILY...
...WITHOUT YOU, FATHER. ?!

DAMN..!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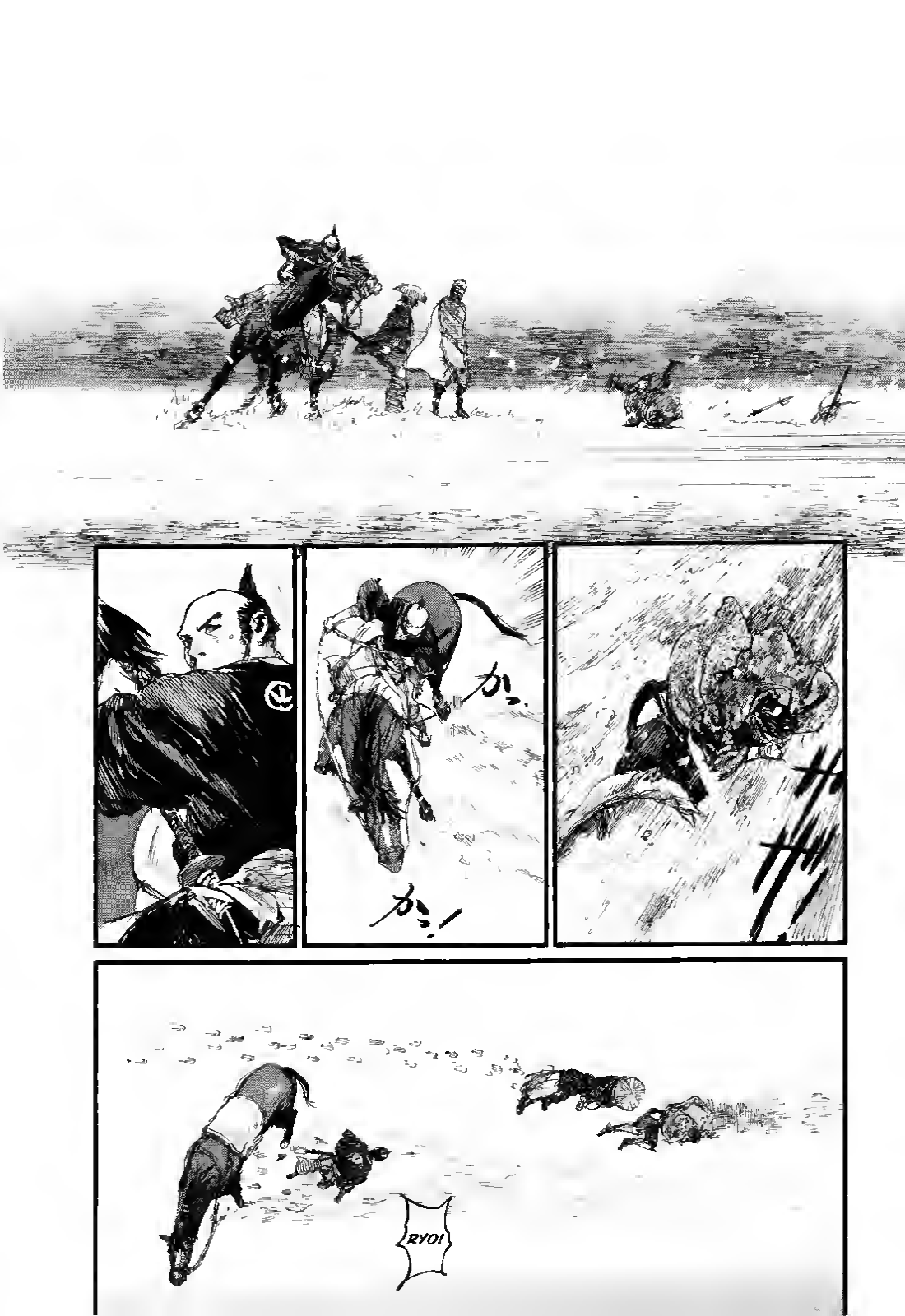

RYO!

!?
MITAKE-SAN..?
KEEP OUT OF THIS!
HEY, YOU TWO!!
THAT'S A GIRL, RIGHT?
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

HYAKURIN...
GIICHI...

MITAKI-SAN, WHAT'S WITH THIS GIRL?
OH DEAR .!
I THINK HER RIGHT SHOULDER IS DISLOCATED.
...OF HABAKI-SAN.
SHE'S THE DAUGHTER..
FOR REAL..?!
.....

SAY...

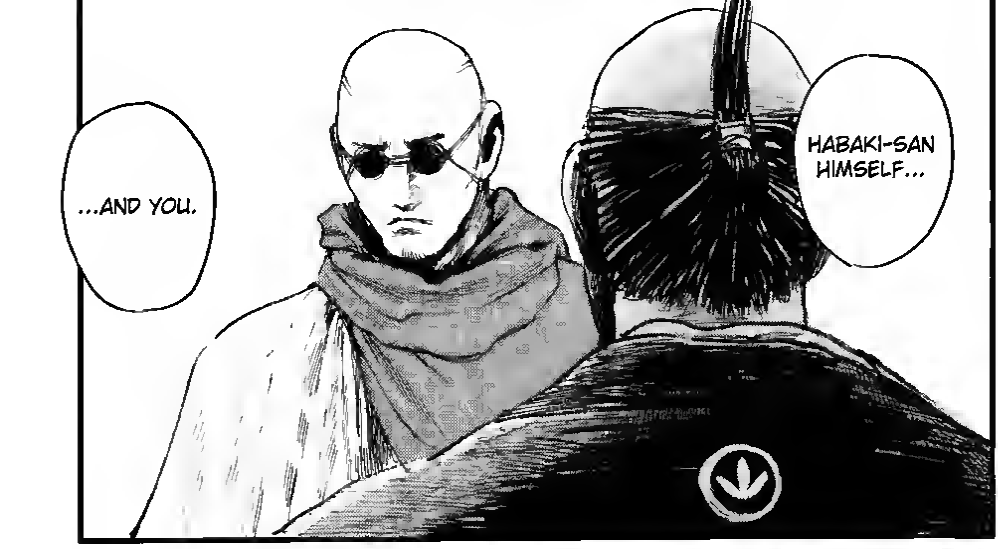
JUST LET IT RUN.
IT'S TOO COLD OUTSIDE.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE HER WAIST-CLOTH OFF.

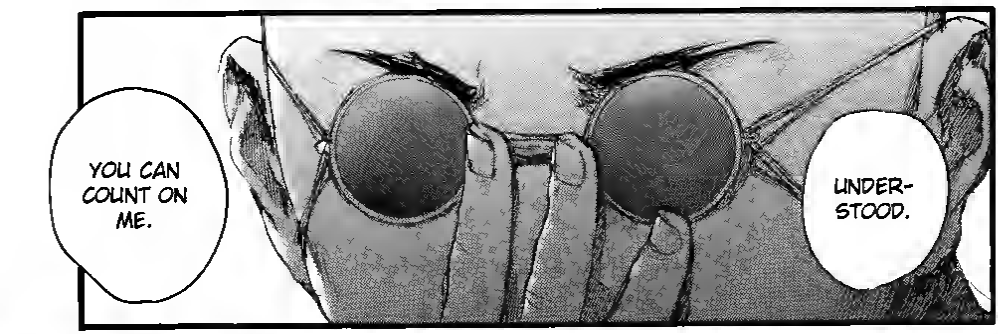
WHAT SHOULD WE DO IF SHE HAS TO PEE?

THAT HABAKI-SAN HAS AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD..!

TO MOVE HIS DAUGHTER OUT OF THE WAY...
...BEFORE THE FINAL BATTLE... THAT MAKES THE OLD BASTARD NEARLY LIKABLE AGAIN
TO MAKE IT CLEAR...
TO BE HONEST, IT'S UNBEARABLE FOR ME TO BE THE ONLY ONE MISSING FROM THE FINAL ENCOUNTER...
IF SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENS AGAIN THEN SHE WON'T GET AWAY WITH JUST A DISLOCATED SHOULDER.
OUR HEARTS ARE WITH HABAKI
I'LL RETURN IN THREE DAYS.
IF I... IF NO ONE COME TO PICK HER UP THEN YOU CAN JUST LET HER GO.
GIVE HER SOMETHING TO EAT TWO TIMES A DAY! I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
WITH YOUR HELP PROBABLY IN TWO DAYS
YOU THINK IT WILL BE OVER TILL THEN?
THREE DAYS..?

I THANK YOU.
HYAKURIN, GIICHI...
ABOVE ALL, KAGEHISA ANOTSU...
IF HE RETURNS UNHURT THEN YOU ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO COULD STOP HIM.
NEITHER HABAKI-SAN NOR I THINK THAT ROKKI-DAN IS CAPABLE OF DEFEATING THEM.
BUT THE FOUR THAT HAVE AMBUSHED THE PALACE..
THE FRACTION OF ITTO-RYU ON THE MITO-PATH...
..WILL BE DEALT WITH BY US SOMEHOW.


HABAKI-SAN HIMSELF...
...AND YOU.

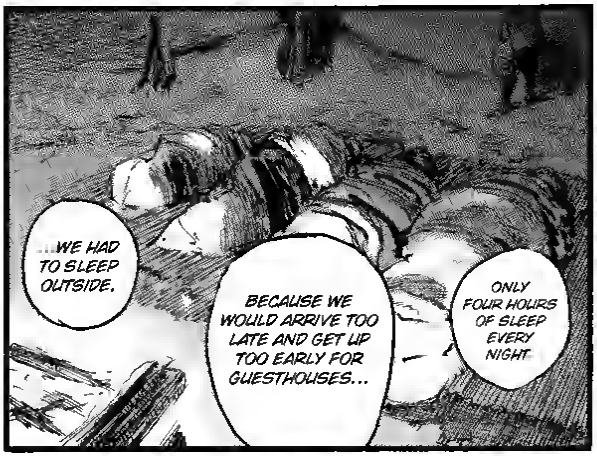

UNDER-STOOD.
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.

WHAT ABOUT THE ONE WHO SURVIVED..?
YES..
SHE WAS EXHAUSTED FROM THE FIGHT AND WAS HANDED OVER ..
.. TO SIR MITAKE AS ARRANGED. HE RODE AWAY WITH HER.
FOUR DEAD..?
NO!
I HAVE A SON MYSELF ..
DO YOU CONDEMN ME?
I SEE.
WHAT SOPHISTRY!
...AND THE ONES HIRED WITH MONEY.
...WHO ARE ALREADY DEVOTED TO DEATH...
I ONLY NEED THOSE...
I'M NOT ALLOWED TO LOSE THIS BATTLE
THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO FREE MYSELF FROM EVERYTHING THAT MIGHT HANDICAP

YES.
THANK YOU, YOU CAN GO NOW.
REGARDING THE DESCRIPTION THE DEAD ONE MUST BE SOMEONE FROM THE LEADING MEMBERS.
ONE LESS ITTO-RYU ON THE MITO-PATH. STILL TEN LEFT.
I WANTED TO CARRY OUT A DEVASTATING BLOW ON THE GROUP BEFORE THE FOUR FROM EDO WILL MEET UP WITH THEM.
BUT IT'S TOO LATE.
.. AND ONE OF THE HANAGUMI.
WE HAVE PAID FOR HIS DEATH WITH THREE OF THE HEBI-GUMI..
...THREE TO FOUR HOURS OF ADVANCING ON FOOT.
...THE ITTO-RYU STILL HAVE...
PROVIDED BY MY HORSE-MAN...

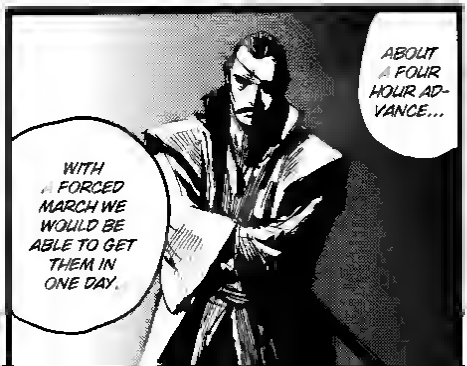
TO SHORTEN THE AD-VANCE...
...I HAD TO MALTREAT MY MEN.

WHEN WE LEFT EDO IT WAS STILL ONE DAY.


ONLY FOUR HOURS OF SLEEP EVERY NIGHT.
BECAUSE WE WOULD ARRIVE TOO LATE AND GET UP TOO EARLY FOR GUESTHOUSES...
...WE HAD TO SLEEP OUTSIDE.

WE ONLY HAVE DRY FOOD TO EAT.
THAT IT ALL LASTED TILL NOW EVEN SURPRISES MYSELF.

BUT AFTER SUCH A MARCH...
...I COULDN'T EXPECT TO WIN. NOTHING WOULD BE GAINED FROM THIS.

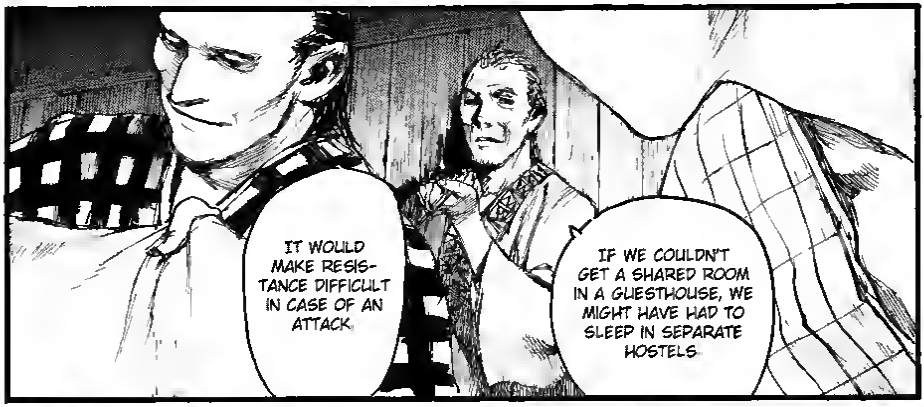

ABOUT A FOUR HOUR AD-VANCE...
WITH A FORCED MARCH WE WOULD BE ABLE TO GET THEM IN ONE DAY.

BUT THESE ONE OR TWO HORSES...
BUT ON THIS PATH THERE ARE ONLY ONE OR TWO HORSES TO OBTAIN
TO FOLLOW THEM BY HORSE WOULD SAVE ENERGY.

WAKE UP ARASHINO!
YES?
HEY!

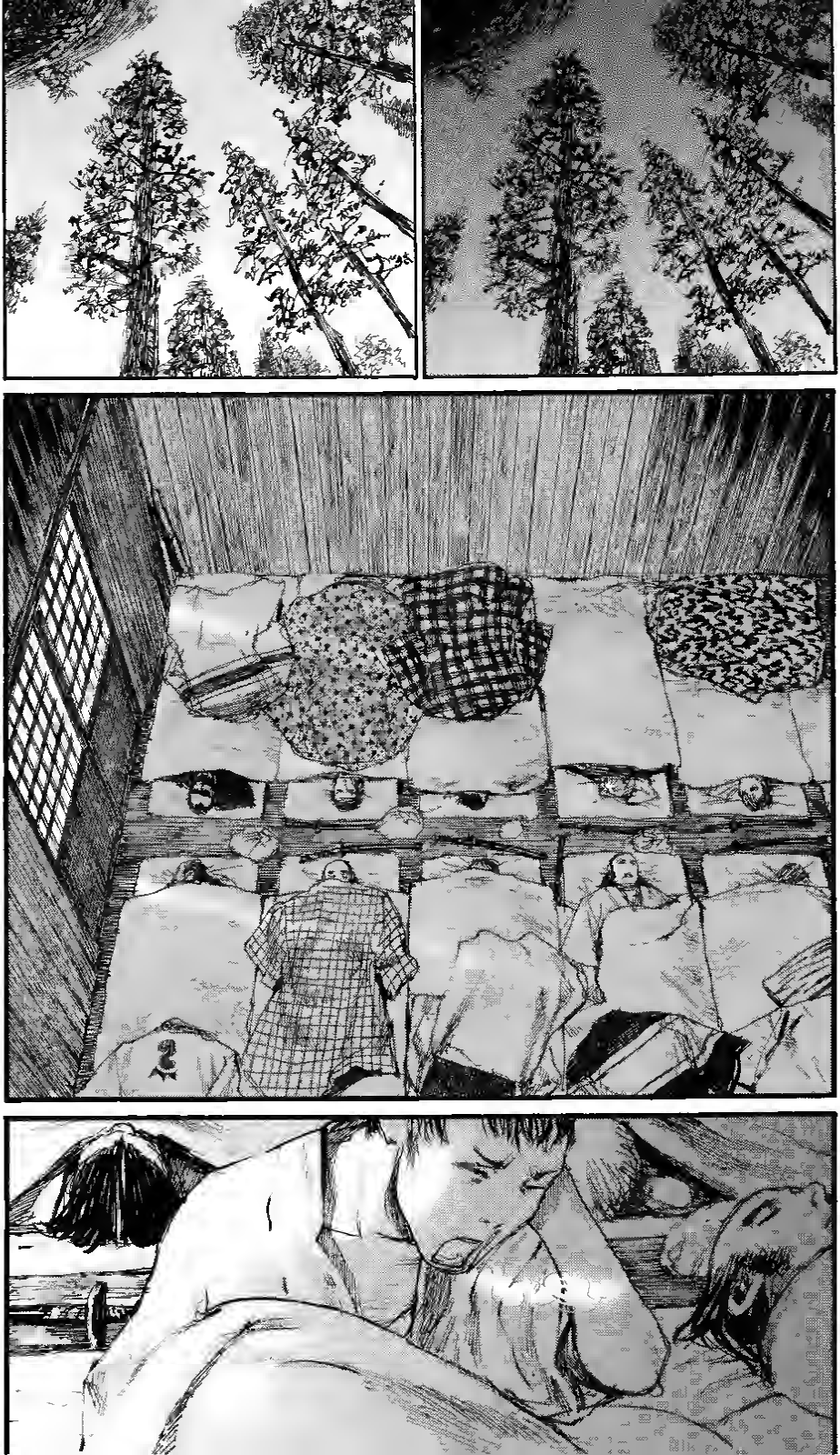
THANKS.
GIVE ME ONE TOO!
WE HAVEN'T DONE THIS SINCE THE DOJO.

I GATHERED US SOME BLANKETS.


IT WOULD MAKE RESISTANCE DIFFICULT IN CASE OF AN ATTACK.
IF WE COULDN'T GET A SHARED ROOM IN A GUESTHOUSE, WE MIGHT HAVE HAD TO SLEEP IN SEPARATE HOSTELS.

FURTHERMORE, OTHERS WOULD BE IMPLICATED.
YEAH, THAT TOO.

KOJI KASHIN DIDN'T RETURN.
THAT CAN ONLY MEAN...



BAH, IT'S COLD!
SHIT..
THIS COLD IS SHRINKING MY EVERY-THING..!
HM?
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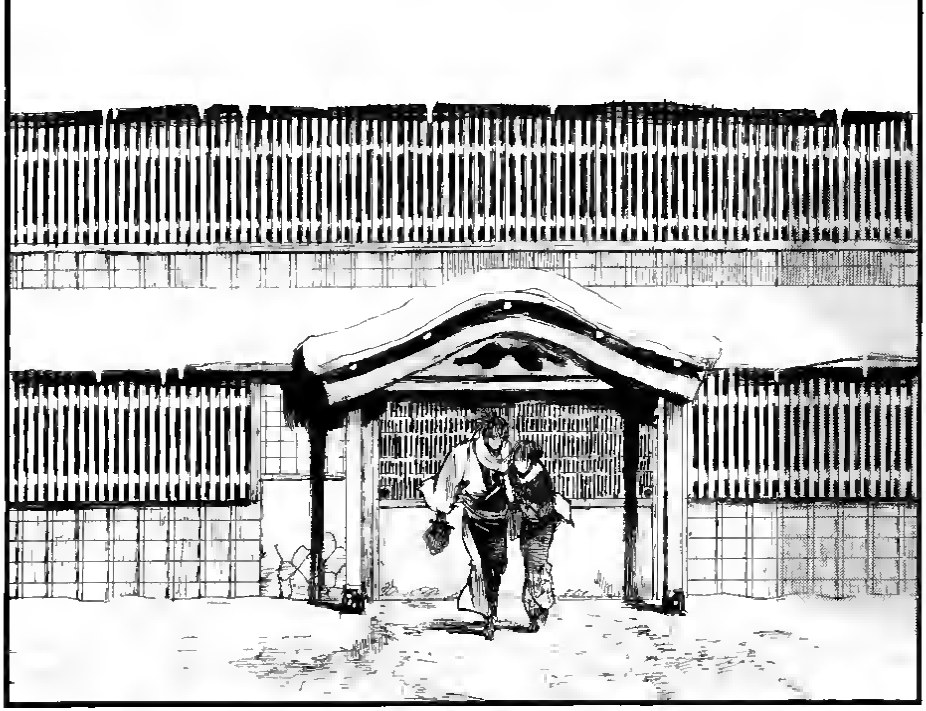
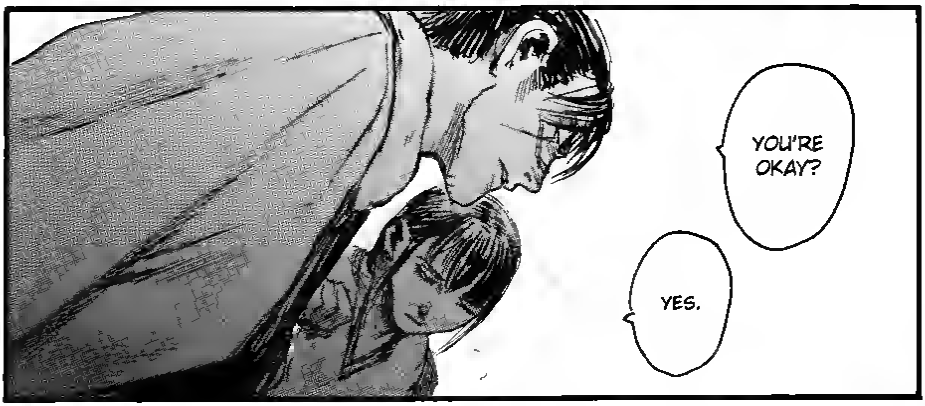
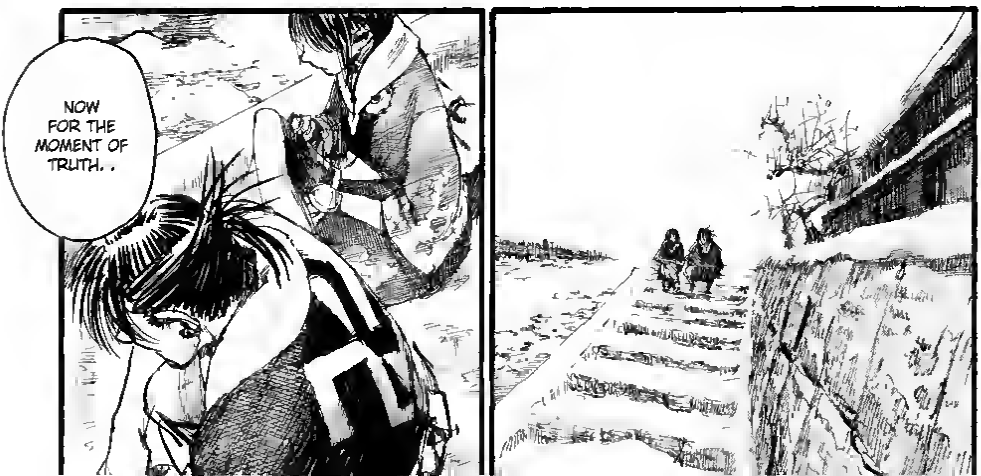
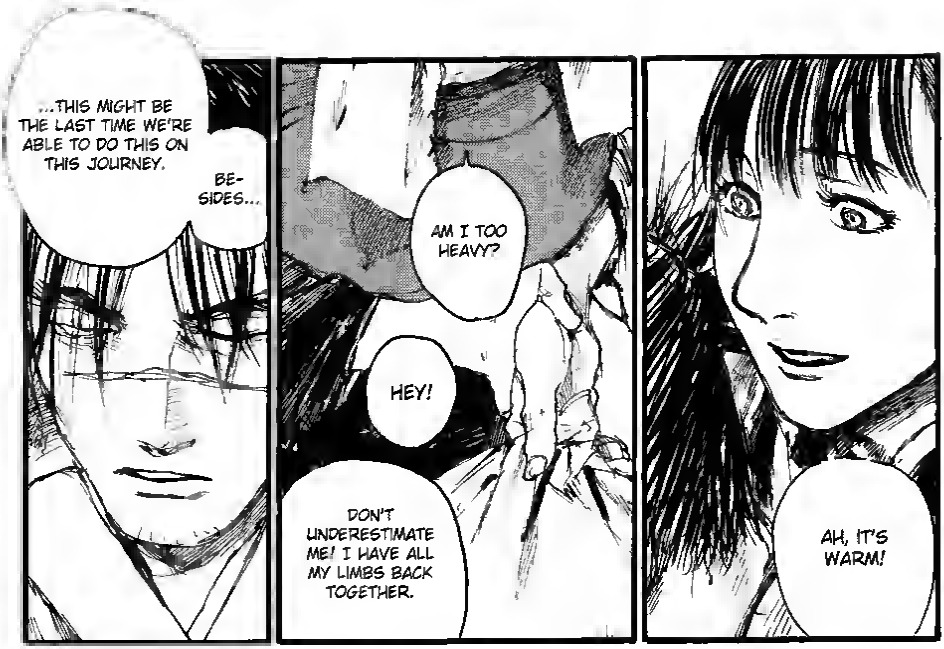


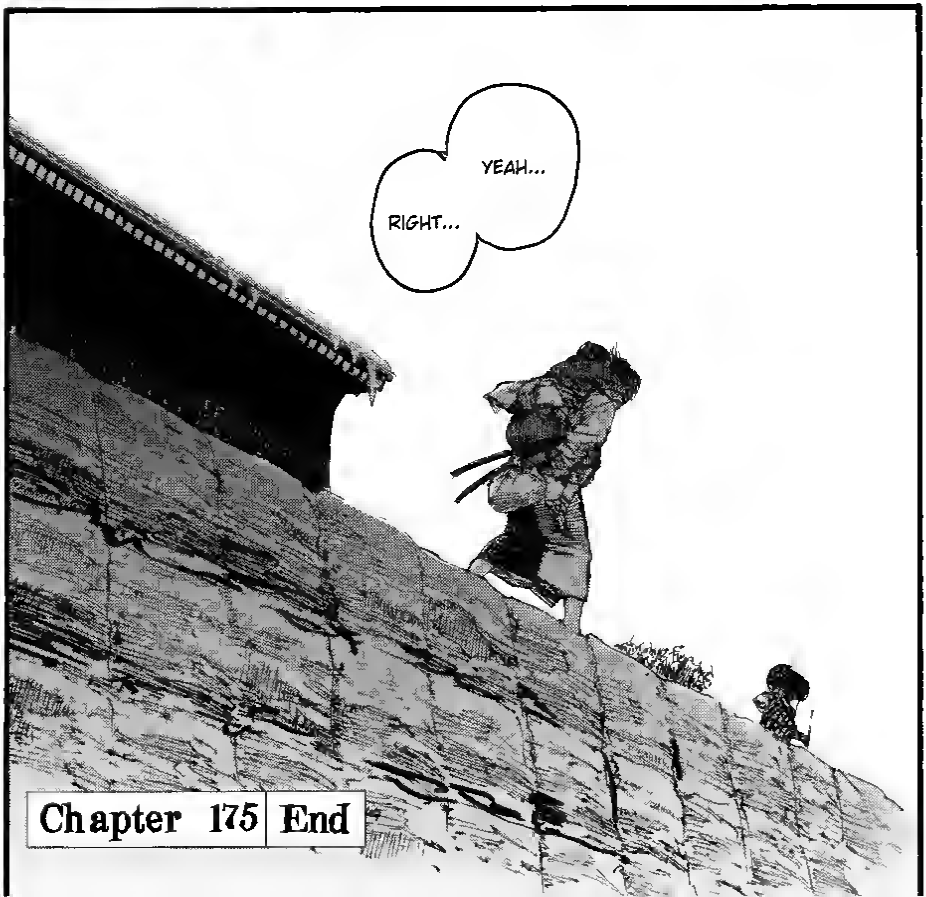

YOU'RE OKAY?
YES.


NOW FOR THE MOMENT OF TRUTH. .

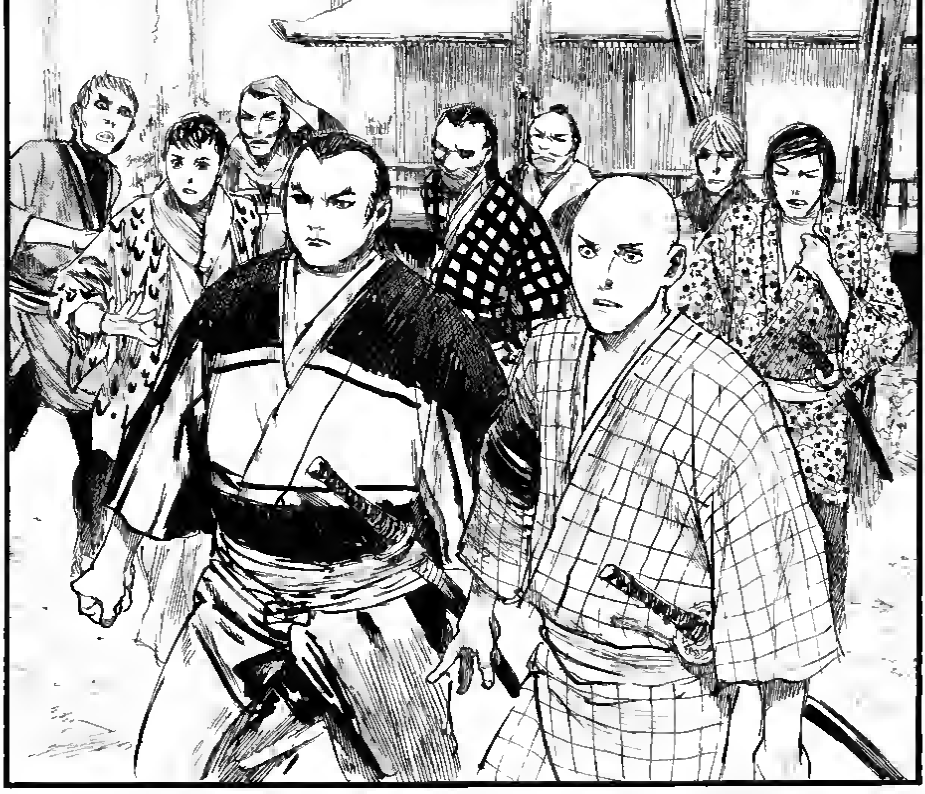
THIS IS ALL WE HAVE LEFT.
Also half of my gold bugs–
DURING THE BUSINESS WITH SHIRA ALL MY GOLD COINS FELL INTO THE POND.
IF WE DON'T SAVE ON THE FOOD..
..WE WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO AFFORD A SLEAZY JOINT.
WE CAN FORGET ABOUT A SEDAN.
AND A HORSE.. FOR SOME REASON THERE WEREN'T ANYMORE BEHIND TSUCHIURA.
IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOUR FEET..
I TOLD YOU IT'S NO PROBLEM!
IT MIGHT TAKE LONGER TO HEAL..
..BUT I'M ABLE TO WALK.

DO YOU KNOW HOW FAR IT IS?!
B-BUT, MANJI..!
C'MON, HOP ON! YOU'RE COLD TOO, RIGHT?
ALSO, WE WOULD LOOK TOTALLY STUPID IF WE CAME TOO LATE AND EVERYTHING WAS OVER AND DONE
WE DIDN'T DO THIS SINCE KAGA ..
YEAH, REALLY?


...THIS MIGHT BE THE LAST TIME WE'RE ABLE TO DO THIS ON THIS JOURNEY.
BE-SIDES...
AM I TOO HEAVY?
HEY!
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ME! I HAVE ALL MY LIMBS BACK TOGETHER.
AH, IT'S WARM!


YEAH...
RIGHT...
Chapter 175 End

❖Chapter 176:❖
Exertion of Virility
-Part 2-



Goede morgen!
IT'S YATSU-SHIBA!
YATSU-SHIBA!

YOU ARE FROM ROKKI-DAN?

AH, UNDER-STOOD...
EVEN WITH THE HEAD OF YOUR COMRADE BEFORE YOUR EYES...

A SPONTANEOUS ATTACK IS OUT OF THE QUESTION BECAUSE YOU OUTNUMBER US.
YOU ARE PERFECTLY DRILLED DOGS.

OKAY THEN
I WILL FOLLOW YOUR RULES.

WHAT?!

WELL, DON'T YOU WANT REVENGE FOR YOUR COMRADE?
IF YOU HAVE THREE TRUMP CARDS THAT ARE COMPARABLE TO US, THEN PLAY THEM.
OUT OF MY WAY!
KCH..
ABAYAMA-SAN...
BASTARDS..!

YOU ARE SOSUKE ABAYAMA?
KAGEHISA ANOTSU. .
I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU.
WHAT..!!
...WON'T COME.

A MESSENGER BROUGHT THE NEWS FROM EDO YESTERDAY, THAT HIS CORPSE AND THOSE OF THREE OTHERS WERE IDENTIFIED.
...BUT SUCH AN OUTCOME WAS PREDICTABLE.
DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR ESTIMATION...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING..?
HOW..?

.. SHOULD HAVE MET UP WITH US A DAY BEFORE NOW
.. ANOTSU AND THE OTHERS...
TO BE TRUE...

HEY, BALDY!
NO, BULLSHIT!
WHAT? YOU REALLY BELIEVE THIS..?
YOU LIE WHEN YOU OPEN YOUR FILTHY MOUTH!
YOU GOVERNMENT DOGS CAN'T PUT UP AN ACT.
IT'S TRUE, ANOTSU AND THE OTHERS ARE LATE...
.. BUT YOU MIGHT HAVE CAUSED THIS OCCASION AND THERE AREN'T FOUR CORPSES AT ALL.
FOR EX-AMPLE...

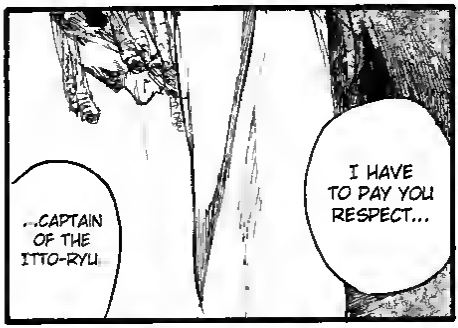
IF SOMEONE WAS VERY CAUTIOUS ..
...HE COULD HAVE KILLED ALL THE HORSES...
..I RESERVED HORSES FOR THEM AFTER EACH RIVER BRIDGE.
TO GIVE THE FOUR A CHANCE TO ADVANCE QUICKLY...
IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNMENT SUCH A RUDE ACT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE.
..IN EACH AND EVERY POSTAL AND HORSE STATION.
I HEARD THE RUMOR THAT KAGIMURA HABAKI WAS SENTENCED TO COMMIT SEPPUKU.
HE WAS GRANTED A DELAY UNTIL KAGEHISA ANOTSU WAS EXTERMINATED...
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCE OF KAGEHISA ANOTSU'S DEATH?
AND THAT'S WHY YOU IMPLY I'M LYING..?
.....
NO, NO.
I'M ASSURED OF ANOTHER REASON THAT YOU'RE LYING.

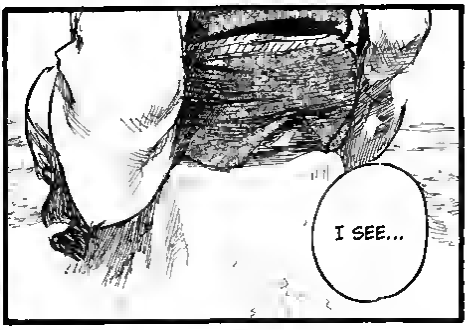
I DON'T KNOW WHO OF ROKKI-DAN YOU ARE, BUT IN THIS CASE YOU WOULDN'T HAVE ANY REASON TO CROSS SWORDS WITH US.
HABAKI WOULDN'T WASTE TIME ANYMORE BUT HURRY BACK TO EDO...
...TO PREPARE HIS SEPPUKU.
...THAT KAGEHISA'S FATE IS UNCERTAIN.
THAT YOU ARE STILL PROWLING AROUND HERE, ONLY SHOWS ME...
THAT'S OBVIOUS.
THEN WHY THIS LIE?
ぉっぉり
AH, I SEE...
GOOD TO KNOW...

...UNTIL KAGIMURA HABAKI ARRIVES.
THESE ASSHOLES ARE HERE TO OBSTRUCT US...
...TO GO TO HITACHI
RIGHT?
WE SHOULD THINK IT WOULDN'T MAKE SENSE ANYMORE...
THAT ONE DAY...
..WE LEFT EDO EARLIER..
...TO CATCH UP WITH US!?
DIDN'T YOU SET OUT. .
TELL ME, BALDY...

..THAT KAGEHISA'S GROUP CLOSING IN ON YOURS BEFORE YOU MAKE IT TO US.
NOW YOU HAVE TO AVOID AT ALL COSTS. .
YOU MIGHT HAVE KILLED THE RENTAL HORSES..
THEY NEED ONLY TWO WITH FOUR PEOPLE, SO IT MIGHT BE DOABLE
—BUT THEY ALSO COULD'VE RENTED SOME FROM PEASANTS.
OF COURSE, YOU HAVE ANTS IN YOUR PANTS...
YOU PROBABLY PASSED SOME RIDICULOUS FORCED MARCH BEHIND YOU. DID MORALE ALREADY LEAVE YOUR GROUP?
What? Really!
Is that blood?
ASSUMING I'M CORRECT UNTIL NOW, LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING..
. SO THERE WON'T BE ANY MISUNDER-STANDING!
THAT WOULD BE AWFUL FOR YOUR GROUP
EXTERMINATING FOUR OR TEN PEOPLE SEPA-RATELY...
. OR BEING HARASSED BY FOUR AND TEN PEOPLE TOGETHER IS A HUGE DIFFERENCE.

THAT NOT ALL OF US WILL REACH THIS JOURNEY'S GOAL ALIVE WAS FORESEEABLE FROM THE START.
WHETHER KAGEHISA MAKES IT TO US OR NOT, WE WILL GO ON THE SHIP AT HITACHI BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.


...CAPTAIN OF THE ITTO-RYU!
I HAVE TO PAY YOU RESPECT...


I SEE...

BWAH HA HA HA!
DON'T TALK SHIT, BALDY!
SO WE HAVE COME IN VAIN..!?

YOU KILLED ONE OF MY BOYS.
?

AND YOU TALK ABOUT "COMING IN VAIN"..?
RAINING ON OUR PARADE.

YOU ARE SOME FUNNY GUYS...

SINCE YOU ALREADY CAME HERE, YOU'RE GONNA DIE NOW!

ぽちん
ハッ

TELL ME THAT WHEN I'M DEAD!
THERE SHOULD BE ONE MORE...
BUT ONE AGAINST THREE ISN'T FAIR.
. ROKKI-DAN WOULD BE ABLE TO DEFEAT ITTO-RYU HERE.
I DIDN'T FANCY MYSELF THAT...
EH, ABAYAMA-SAN...
I'M SORRY TO SAY SO IN THIS SITUATION..
..BUT I'M LEAVING ITTO-RYU.

...I WILL LEAVE AS WELL.
ABAYAMA-SAN.

EH?!

AMON...

EHM, ME TOO.

I BEG YOU TO EXCUSE ME..

I'M GOING
YOU.?
ME TOO.

...IF THE FIGHTING STARTS THEN IT WON'T APPLY ANYMORE.
ON THE OTHER HAND...
WHAT'S WITH THAT? I TOLD YOU I'LL FIGHT!
CONSIDERING YOUR SKILLS WITH THE SWORD IT'D BE A WISE DECISION...
THE ENEMY WOULD LET NOBODY ESCAPE.
HEY..!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING..?!

Chapter 176 End

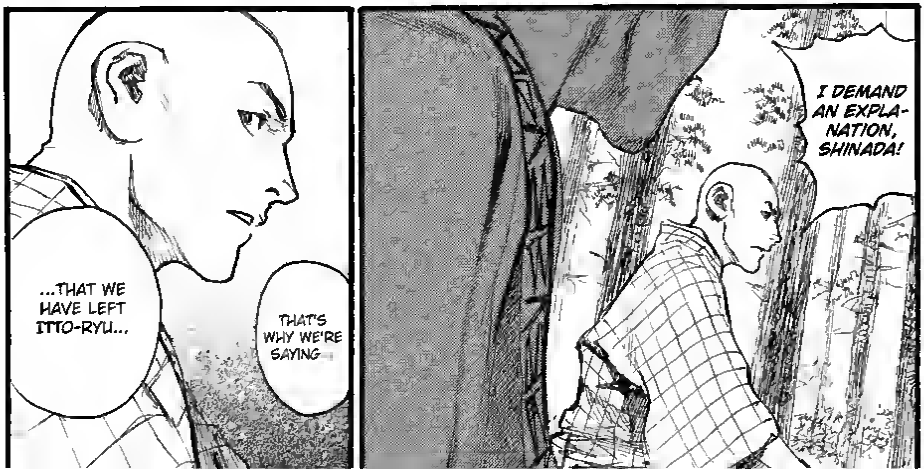
❖Chapter 177:❖

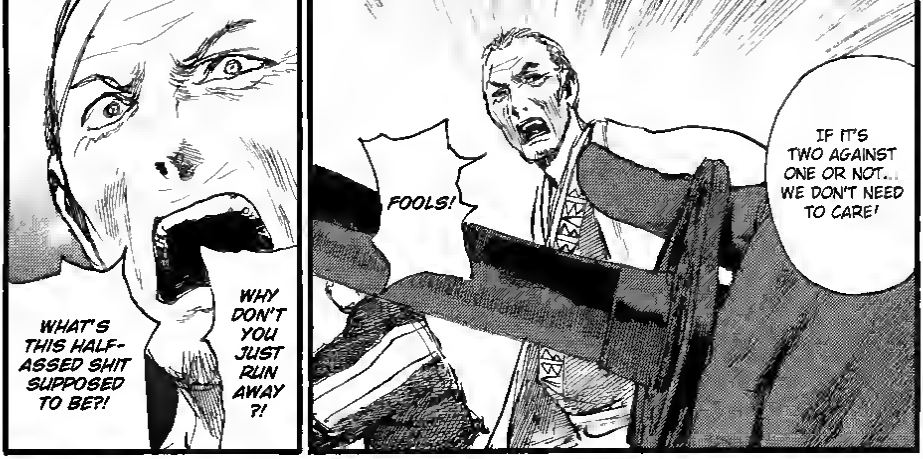
Exertion of Virility

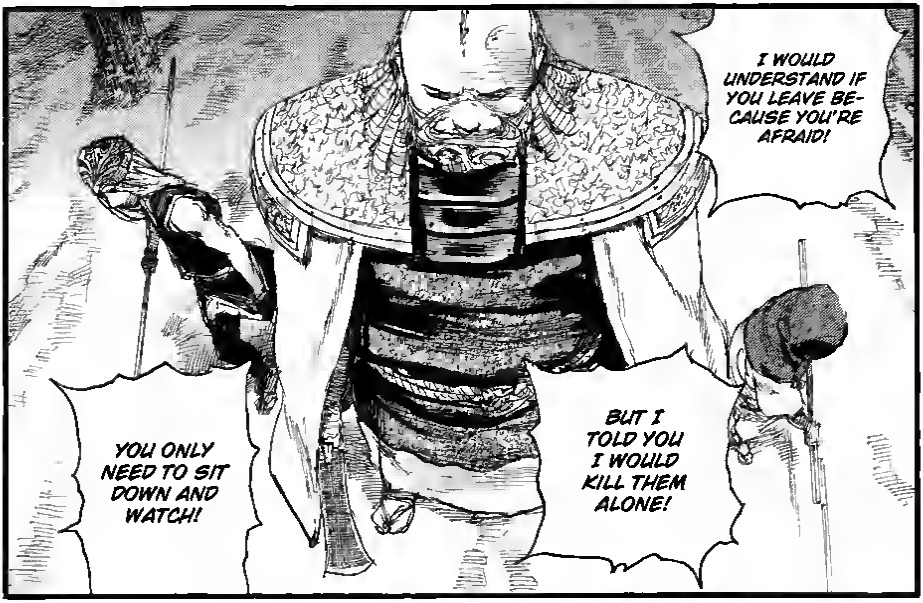
-Part 3-

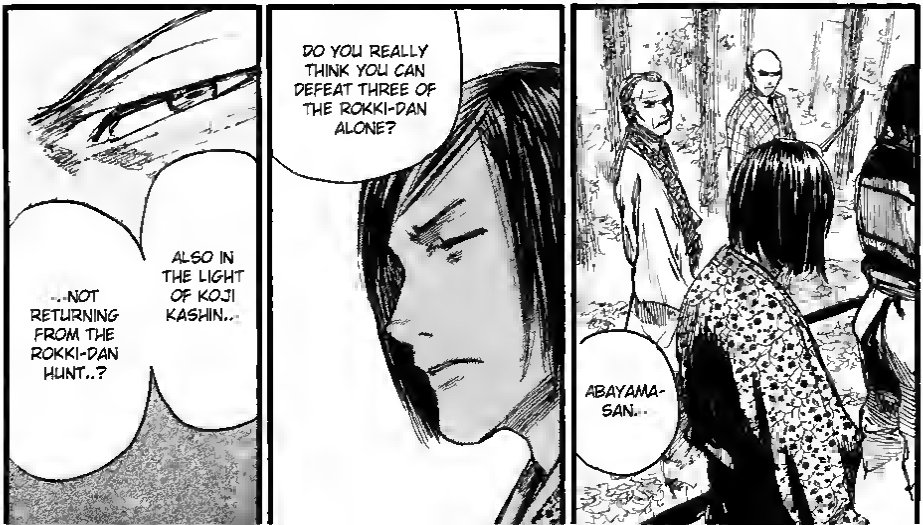
DAMMIT! I'M ASKING YOU WHAT'S GOING ON!

WITH HOW MANY DO YOU WANT TO ATTACK THE THREE?!
YOU SHOULD KNOW THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF ITTO-RYU!


...THAT WE HAVE LEFT ITTO-RYU...
THAT'S WHY WE'RE SAYING
I DEMAND AN EXPLA-NATION, SHINADA!

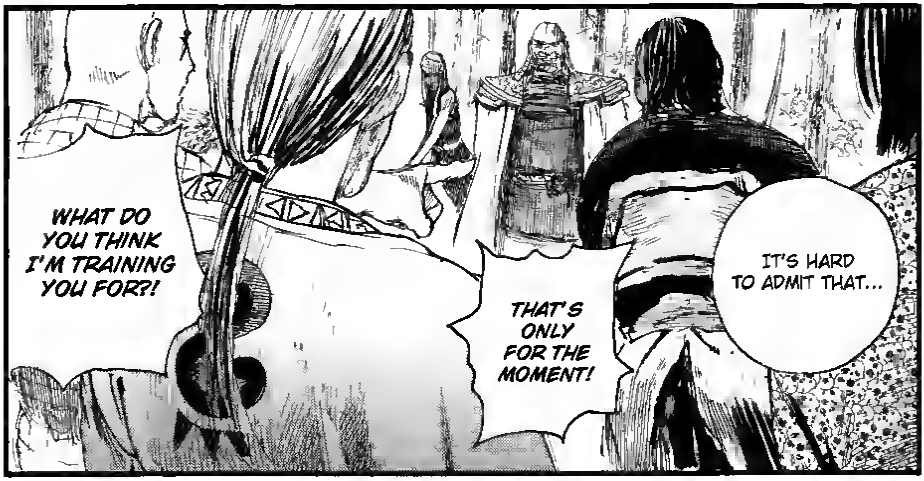

WHAT'S THIS HALF-ASSED SHIT SUPPOSED TO BE?!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST RUN AWAY?!
FOOLS!
IF IT'S TWO AGAINST ONE OR NOT... WE DON'T NEED TO CARE!

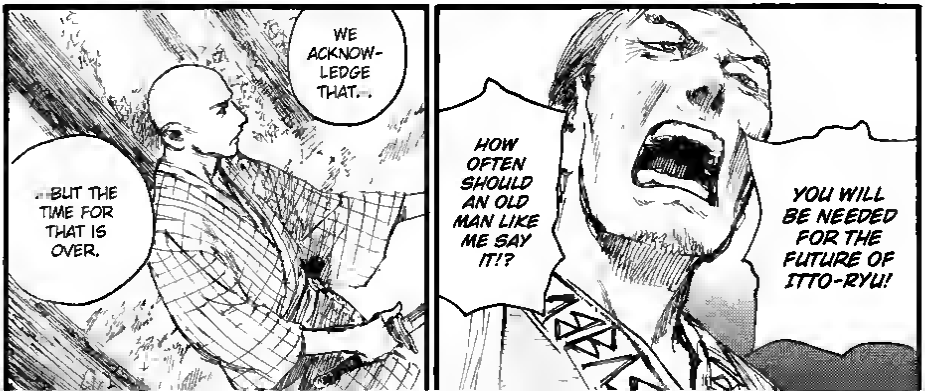

I WOULD UNDERSTAND IF YOU LEAVE BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID!
YOU ONLY NEED TO SIT DOWN AND WATCH!
BUT I TOLD YOU I WOULD KILL THEM ALONE!


..NOT RETURNING FROM THE ROKKI-DAN HUNT..?
ALSO IN THE LIGHT OF KOJI KASHIN..
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN DEFEAT THREE OF THE ROKKI-DAN ALONE?
ABAYAMA-SAN..

WE CAN'T LET YOU GET HEAVILY INJURED HERE.
THE FINAL BATTLE AGAINST KAGIMURA HABAKI IS APPROACHING
IN ADDITION IT'S NOT IMPORTANT HOW YOU'LL WIN.
..HAVE REALIZED THAT.
ABAYAMA-SAN, WE AS WELL.
.....
...ARE YOU AND HIM.
...ITTO-RYU...
EVEN IF WE ARE SAFE...
...IF YOU OR ANOTSU-SAN DIED, IT'LL BE OVER FOR ITTO-RYU.

BUT THAT...
ABAYAMA-SAN.
..BUT ALL OF US WHO ARE HERE..
...NOT ONE OF US IS GOOD ENOUGH TO CARRY THE NAME OF ITTO-RYU.
UNFORTU-NATELY...
SINCE THE FIRST ENCOUN-TER ITTO-RYU HAS BEEN MY IDEAL.
THAT DOESN'T ONLY APPLY FOR ME..


WHAT DO YOU THINK I'M TRAINING YOU FOR?!
THAT'S ONLY FOR THE MOMENT!
IT'S HARD TO ADMIT THAT...


WE ACKNOW-LEDGE THAT...
..BUT THE TIME FOR THAT IS OVER.
HOW OFTEN SHOULD AN OLD MAN LIKE ME SAY IT!?
YOU WILL BE NEEDED FOR THE FUTURE OF ITTO-RYU!

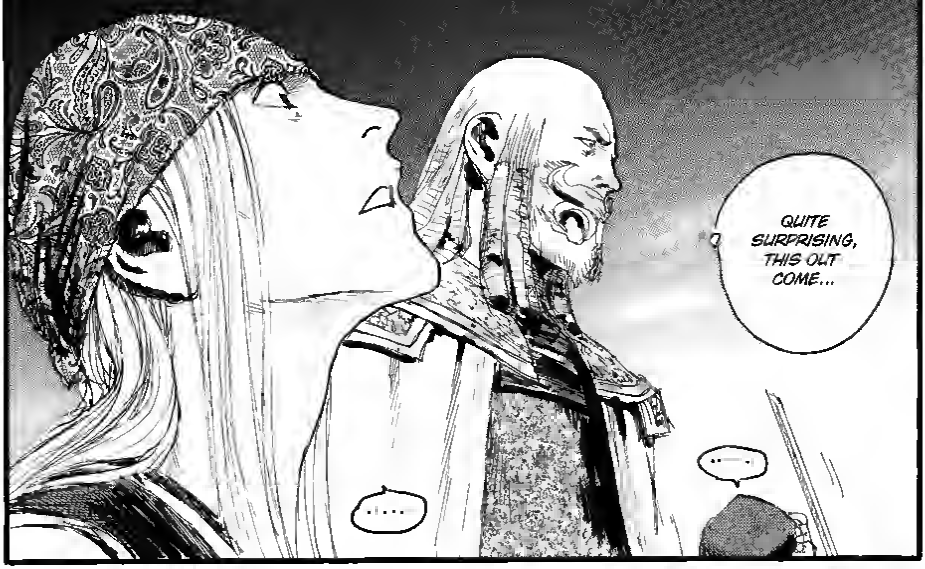
YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO..?
WELL..
.....
WE ARE STANDING AT THE ABYSS.
YOU HAVE TO SEPARATE THE USEFUL FROM THE USELESS NOW.
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE ALREADY MADE THIS DECISION IN ADVANCE.
EH?!

HM?!
HEY, YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

WHAT'S GOING ON..?
ざゃ!
HNN-NGH..!
YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?!
ARIUSU, KODA, YATOIN...

YOU THREE ARE OUR BEST SWORD-FIGHTERS.
PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF ABAYAMA-SAN!
I'M SORRY...
Ah! Ishida!
...ABAYAMA-SAN.
I WOULD HAVE LOVED TO STAY AN ITTO-RYU UNTIL THE END..

PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
BUT MY DUTY AS A "PROTECTIVE SHIELD" HAS PRIORITY. THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO USE THESE MEASURES.
WHAT SHOULD I FORGIVE?!
LET ME DOWN, YOU BABOON!!


QUITE SURPRISING, THIS OUT COME...
.....
...

HMM..
SHOULDN'T WE FOLLOW AND KILL THEM?

WILL THEY BELIEVE US?
ANOTSU DEAD...

...IT WILL TURN INTO A FIGHT.
NOTHING SHOULD MAKE THEM DOUBT. THE CHANCES ARE FIFTY-FIFTY.
IF THEY BELIEVE IT OR NOT...
?
I DON'T THINK YOUR CHANCES ARE BAD FOR YOU.
WHO KNOWS ..?
HE HE
IS THAT AN ORDER TO DIE?
SO. AS MANY AS CAN FIT ON TWO HORSES SHOULD FIGHT ALL OF THEM?
IT WAS LEAD BY KAGEHISA ANOTSU.
MITAKE HAS TOLD ME OF THE AMBUSH AT THE PALACE.

IT SHOULD BE ASSUMED THAT THOSE FOUR WHO PLANNED THE AMBUSH ARE CURRENTLY THE STRONGEST FIGHTERS OF ITTO-RYU.
...AND A MASKED MAN WHOSE NAME IS UNKNOWN.
WITH HIM WAS HIS DEPUTY TAITO MAGATSU...
..SUKEZANE BARO...
AS OLD ITTO-RYU FIGHTERS THEY ARE SURELY SPLENDID SWORDFIGHTERS.
...AND THE MAN THAT CONFRONTED RYO AND BAN.
OTHERWISE THE GROUP ON THE MITO-PATH CONSISTS OF VETERANS LIKE ABAYAMA ..
TO FIRST TAKE UP A FIGHT WITH HUNDREDS OF GUARDS AND THEN RACE TO HITACHI AS FAST AS POSSIBLE...
THAT'S NOTHING FOR OLD MEN.
...IS A SUICIDAL ACT.
THEY ARE OLD...
WHY BOTH OF THEM WERE NOT PART OF THE AMBUSH TEAM AT THE PALACE IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND.

RIGHT!
IF THAT'S CORRECT...
BUT THE MESSENGER SAID THAT THE GROUP ON THE MITO-PATH CONSISTS OF MANY YOUNG ONES...
...CARRY OUT THIS ACTION WITH ONLY FOUR PEOPLE?
WHY DID ANOTSU HAVE TO...
...THEN WHY WEREN'T THEY PART OF THE AMBUSH GROUP?
...THEY WOULDN'T HAVE STOOD A CHANCE AT SURVIVAL.
AGAINST THE OVERWHELMING NUMBERS OF GUARDS...
PROBABLY BECAUSE THESE YOUNG PEOPLE AREN'T YET GOOD ENOUGH AS SWORDFIGHTERS

ITTO-RYU HAS SEPARATED ITSELF INTO TWO DIFFERENT GROUPS TO MISLEAD US. THE RANKS WERE FILLED WITH FAKE MEMBERS.
EITHER PAID MERCENARIES...
...OR OLD HENCHMEN FROM OTHER PROVINCES THAT HURRIED TO HELP ITTO-RYU IN THIS EMERGENCY.
A MOTLEY CREW...
COMPARED TO YOU, WHO HAS BEEN CHOSEN FROM HUNDREDS OF CRIMINALS...
...THEY WON'T STAND A CHANCE.
I SEE...
LISTEN, ARASHINO!
YOU'LL DO IT LIKE THIS...
...THEN THREE OF THEM WILL LINE UP AGAINST YOU.
IT'S THE BASIC PRINCIPLE OF ITTO-RYU.
YOU'LL HAVE TWO HORSES FOR THREE PEOPLE
THAT'S ENOUGH!
IF YOU CHALLENGE THEM WITH THREE...

...WILL BE SOSUKE ABAYAMA FOR SURE. THAT'S CERTAIN.
ARASHI-NO...
AMONG THE THREE WHO TAKE YOU ON...
AS OF YET, THEY HAVE ALWAYS OBLIGED.
YOU WILL HAVE TO RELY ON THEIR GOOD WILL.
...YOU THREE WILL CONVERGE ON ABAYAMA AND KILL HIM!
ONCE THE FIGHT BEGINS...

THE OTHER TWO DON'T MATTER. IGNORE THEM!
IT HAS TO BE QUICK.
CONCENTRATE SOLELY ON KILLING ABAYAMA

ANOTSU CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE THE OLD MAN IN THIS CURRENT SITUATION.

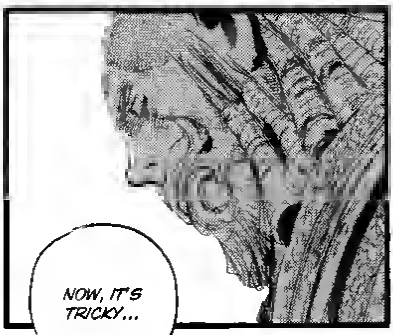
AFTER THAT, IF YOU STILL HAVE THE STRENGTH, YOU CAN TRY TO KILL THE OTHERS.
SHOULD ONE OF YOU BE HEAVILY INJURED THEN TAKE THE HORSES AND FLEE!
UNDER-STOOD...
BUT I STILL HAVE ONE QUESTION...
HM?

WHAT SHOULD WE DO IF, IN THIS SITUATION, THEY DROP THEIR PRINCIPLES OF ALWAYS FIGHTING ONE AGAINST ONE?
NEITHER HUMANS OR ANIMALS.. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THEY GET CORNERED.
IN THIS CASE...
...YOU WILL DIE FOR THE SHOGUN GOVERNMENT.

NOW, HOW SHOULD WE DEAL WITH THIS..?
...BUT THAT THEY WOULD CARRY ABAYAMA AWAY FROM HERE..?
TO GET ATTACKED BY MORE THAN THREE WAS KIND OF PREDICTABLE...
NO...
JUST RUSH AT THEM AND SLAY THEM WITH THE SWORD..?

"WE WON'T LET IT HAPPEN", THAT'S WHAT THEIR EYES'RE SAYING...
IMPOSSIBLE...

IF THE ATTACK SUCCEEDS...
..AND WE ARE ABLE TO KILL THEM, THEN THREE OF THEM WILL CONFRONT US ..


NOW, IT'S TRICKY...

!

HOW SHAMEFUL!
I'M THE ONLY COWARD!

ARISU!
HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU WANT TO CARRY YOUR MASTER AROUND?!
HEY!
HEY!
I GIVE UP..! I LOST!
LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!
JUST KEEP ON TALKING!
.....
I GET WHAT YOU'RE THINKING THAT'S WHY I HAVE AN OFFER FOR YOU!

HNNGH...
PLEASE STOP..!
I'M GETTING SICK.
THEN JUST THROW UP.
AT MY AGE I MIGHT SUFFOCATE ON IT!
ブホ
.....

DON'T YOU NEED TO THROW UP?
TELL ME...
...WHOSE IDEA WAS THIS? WHEN DID YOU COME UP WITH IT?

ガッ!

I ASKED WHEN YOU DECIDED THIS!!
UNGH...
Ah...!

THAT FUCKING BASTARD!!
SHINADA DID...
YESTERDAY NIGHT, WHEN YOU WENT OUTSIDE.

ACTUALLY, WE HAD UNDERESTIMATED ROKKI-DAN...
EXCUSE US, ABAYAMA-SAN!
AFTER KOJI KASHIN WAS DEFEATED BY THEM WE CHANGED OUR POINT OF VIEW..
WE DECIDED THAT THIS ENEMY COULDN'T BE DEFEATED FOLLOWING THE PRINCIPLES OF ITTO-RYU.
WE DIDN'T EXPECT SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
..TO PROTECT OURSELVES, ONLY ENGAGE IN FIGHTS THAT WE CAN WIN.
ABAYAMA-SAN, YOU TAUGHT US..
YOU SHOULD PUT MORE FAITH IN THE OTHERS.
THEY DIDN'T STAY BEHIND BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO DIE.
BUT THAT'S STILL NOT MOTIVATION TO..!
ABAYAMA-SAN..

THEY BELIEVED IT WOULD BE THE BEST WAY TO HELP ALL OF US.
NATURALLY THEY STOPPED BEING ITTO-RYU FROM THAT POINT.
BUT OUR DEEPEST WISH IS TO KEEP THE IDEA OF ITTO-RYU ALIVE.
THAT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO US THAN STAYING MEMBERS OF ITTO-RYU.
ABAYAMA-SAN...
YOU ONCE TOLD US IT'S NOT SHAMEFUL TO FLEE IN PROTECTION OF ONESELF.
TODAY WE ARE THANKFUL TO YOU FOR THIS.
PLEASE UNDER-STAND OUR FEELINGS!

HA! WHAT WOULD BE "THE BEST" OF THIS HALF-BAKED SOLUTION?!
YOU MAY BE RIGHT...
...BUT WE ONLY WANTED THE BEST...
YOU ARE NOTHING BUT A BUNCH OF HALF-WITS!!
...THEN WHY AREN'T YOU WITH THE OTHERS AND FIGHTING ALONGSIDE THEM?!
IF YOU ARE SO EAGER TO OUTNUMBER THE ENEMY IN FIGHTS...
...THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO GIVE UP ITTO-RYU FOR THIS...
THEN ALL OF YOU WOULD BE TOGETHER NOW, YOU IDIOTS!
INSTEAD OF TYING ME UP, YOU COULD HAVE ASKED...
...TO JOIN IN TOO! WHY DIDN'T YOU DO THAT!?

PFUH!
BAH!
YOU ARE SUCH BLOCKHEADS I'M GETTING SICK FROM IT!!
EH, NO, THAT...
FURTHERMORE, IT WAS ALREADY TWO OF US AGAINST ONE OF THEM...

THERE ARE SWORDFIGHTERS THAT ARE SO FAR OFF THE CHART THAT LOSERS LIKE YOU WOULDN'T EVEN STAY A CHANCE AGAINST THEM TEN TO ONE!!
...I WILL EXPLAIN IT TO YOU NOW!
BECAUSE YOU ARE TOO DUMB TO GET IT...

THE OLD HABAKI...
...ONCE HAD A MAN UNDER HIMSELF...

ドッ!

Blade of the Immortal
Volume 26

End

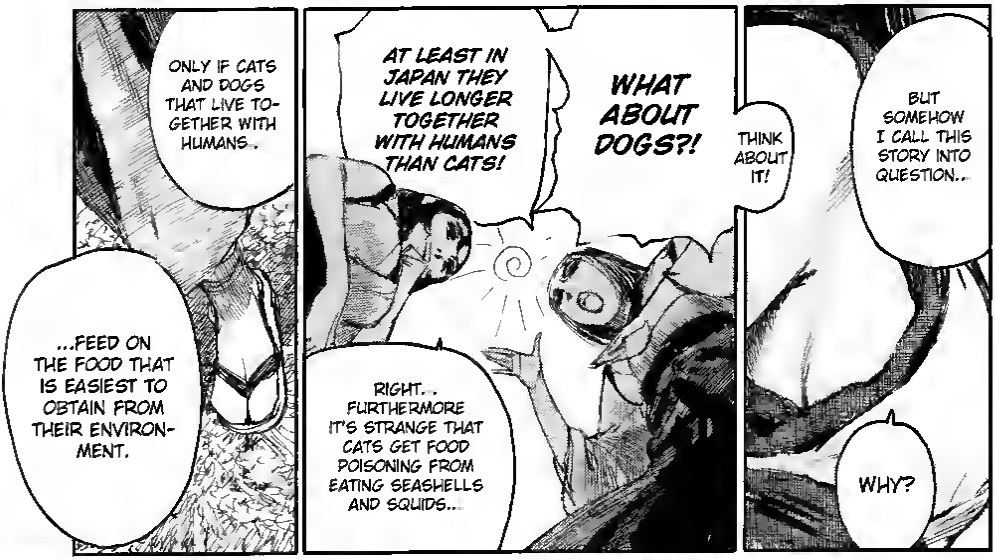
-Omake-

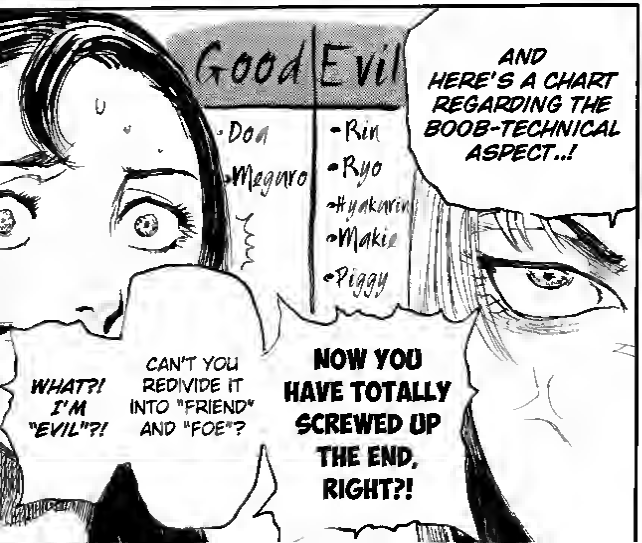
Shinto Girls Omake

False Pearls

Tan-po-po.
Me-gu-ro.
SAY, TANPOPO...
STARE
YES, WHAT IS IT?
IT'S OFTEN SAID: "BIG BOOBS ARE UGLY BOOBS"...
WHAT?! DON'T JUST COME UP WITH SELF-INVENTED PROV-ERBS!!
BY THE WAY...
DO YOU KNOW WHY CATS LIKE FISH SO MUCH?
WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE..?

THAT'S RIGHT, I HEARD THAT FOREIGN CATS EAT MAINLY FLESH.
EATING FLESH ALONE LETS THEM LIVE LONGER.
IN TRUTH THEY DON'T REALLY LIKE FISH AT ALL...
BUT BECAUSE THE JAPANESE EAT MAINLY FISH THEY AREN'T LEFT TO EAT ANYTHING ELSE.


ONLY IF CATS AND DOGS THAT LIVE TOGETHER WITH HUMANS..
...FEED ON THE FOOD THAT IS EASIEST TO OBTAIN FROM THEIR ENVIRONMENT.
AT LEAST IN JAPAN THEY LIVE LONGER TOGETHER WITH HUMANS THAN CATS!
RIGHT.. FURTHERMORE IT'S STRANGE THAT CATS GET FOOD POISONING FROM EATING SEASHELLS AND SQUIDS...
WHAT ABOUT DOGS?!
THINK ABOUT IT!
BUT SOMEHOW I CALL THIS STORY INTO QUESTION..
WHY?


Good
Evil
•Don
•Megumo
•Rin
•Ryo
•Hyakurin
•Makie
•Piggy
AND HERE'S A CHART REGARDING THE BOOB-TECHNICAL ASPECT..!
WHAT?! I'M "EVIL"?!
CAN'T YOU REDIVIDE IT INTO "FRIEND" AND "FOE"?
NOW YOU HAVE TOTALLY SCREWED UP THE END, RIGHT?!

AT THIS POINT IT WOULD BE ABOUT TIME TO TALK ABOUT HUMANS THAT EAT DOGS...
AH, MEGURO!
I KNOW WHAT WE'LL DO NEXT!
Hehehe♡
SUITS WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR...

沙村広明
発売中タイトル
INFORMATION
1
地球外美少女が
イート&オート!?
太陽系一番の〝爆笑〟をあなたに!
経営していた会社が潰れホームレスとなった化野元の前に、突然現れた美少女ヒヨス。彼女の正体は宇宙から来た奇妙な存在だった!
不思議なお箸でリアカーから人間まで何でも一瞬で食いまくる。そして吐きまくる……!? 科学大好きなヤンキー女、会社をつぶした
張本人たるダメ男、果てはヒヨスの仲間まで加わって、そこらじゅうでシュールにホンワカと荒唐無稽な大騒動!
まったりオート系SFコメディ、いよいよ開幕です!!
good!アフタヌーンKC
『ハルシオン・ランチ』①
沙村広明
お気軽イートプライス
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《収録作品》
『おひっこし』
『少女漫画家無宿 涙のランチョン日記』
『みどろヶ池に修羅を見た』

大傑作青春ラブコメ&more!!

『竹易てあし漫画全集 おひっこし』

沙村広明 アフタヌーンKC 定価550円(税込)

全身全霊をかけたバカ漫画!!　その圧倒的画力で描き出される、恋と笑いと涙の青春残酷物語。アフタヌーン・シーズン増刊に「竹易てあし」名義で発表し、大評判となった漫画全部入り。

「愚痴っぽくて刹那的。おせっかいなくせに傷つきやすく。経験ないのに知ったかおって。でも、まっすぐだったあの頃に、もう一度戻ってみたくなりました。――ナチュラル沙村ワールド万歳!!」
(漫画家・藤沢とおる)

〈収録作品〉
大学生たちの青春ラブコメ
『久誓院家最大のショウ』
女子高生による世相風刺
『制服は脱げない』
貴族の「妹」にさせられた少女
『ブリギットの晩餐』
駆け出し漫画家の同棲日記
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64ページの濃厚西部劇
『エメラルド』

喜怒哀楽全部入りエンターテイメント!

『シスタージェネレーター 沙村広明短編集』

沙村広明 アフタヌーンKC 定価550円(税込)

"短編の名手"の本領が発揮された
珠玉の読み切りストーリー集!
「月刊アフタヌーン」を始め、様々な雑誌で発表してきた短編が
満を持して一冊に。
『無限の住人』とはひと味もふた味も違う
沙村広明がここにある!

「無限の住人」第26巻は、アフタヌーン'09年10月号から'10年6月号に掲載された作品を収録したものです。

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また、今後「アフタヌーンKC」にまとめてほしい作品がありましたら編集部までお知らせください。

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